Tuesday, May 3, 2011 | 44 sections / Vol. 35 / No. 144 | P18 | www.inquirer.net

World hails Osama death

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

BIN LADEN: Statement

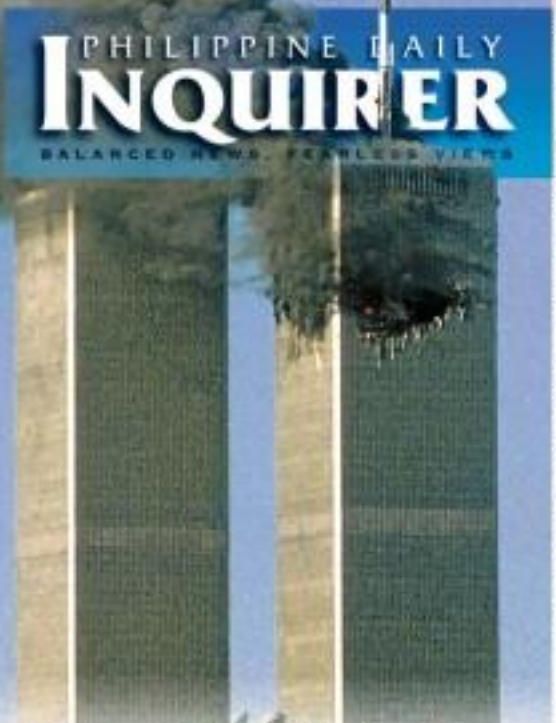
Most wanted face of terrorism

THE MOST wanted manhunt in history finally caught up with Osama bin Laden, but his life's story will be told many different ways by different people.

Reviled in the West as the personification of evil, Bin Laden was admired and even revered by some Muslims who embraced his vision of unending jihad against the United States and their governments he deemed as infidels.

Bin Laden's money and preaching inspired the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that killed some 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, and forever ripped a hole in America's feeling of security at the world.

MORE A4/5



How US hunted down al-Qaida chief

WASHINGTON—After years of dead ends and pummeling brush-gone-cold, the big break came last August.

A trusted courier of Osama bin Laden's reborn Americans spot had been fingering for years was finally loosed to a compound 50 kilometers north of the Pakistan capital, Islamabad, closer to one of the hide of American counterterrorism operations. The prospects was so scenic, so large, that American officials guessed it was built to hide someone far more important than a mere courier.

What followed was eight months of painstaking intelligence work, culminating in a helicopter assault by American military and intelligence operatives that ended in the death of bin Laden shortly after midnight on Sunday...and ended out of one of history's most intriguing manhunts.

MORE A4/5

HORRIFIC ATTACK: Hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 (at left) flies toward the south tower of the World Trade Center as the north tower burns following an earlier attack by another commandeered airliner in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001. AP/File

Justice has been done, says US president

THE KILLING of al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden in a covert US operation is a "victory for justice" that will bring "great relief" to the world, America's allies said on Monday. But in some parts of the globe worried residents are bracing for revenge.

Announcing the death of the planet's most wanted man, US President Barack Obama said "justice has been done," while his predecessor, George W. Bush, hailed it as a "momentous" achievement.

News of what Israel called the "liquidation" of Bin Laden was hailed by governments around the world, but many cautioned that the fight against extremism was not over.

And in a sign of the possible violence to come, India lashed out at its arch foe Pakistan, saying the al-Qaida mastermind's killing north of Islamabad was further evidence that terrorists find "sanctuary" in the country.

Bin Laden, a figure of hate across the West for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, was killed in a Pakistani compound in an operation on Sunday, Obama told a global TV audience in a dramatic late-night address.

The news was greeted with jubilation in foreign capitals, with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe calling it a "victory for all democracies fighting the abominable scourge of international..."

British Prime Minister David

MORE A2/3

- PH steps up security measures / A11
- Ground Zero is the center of celebration / A15
- Egyptian surgeon seen to succeed Bin Laden; Osama death rockets through Internet / A16

US CELEBRATES: President Obama announces the death of Osama bin Laden from the White House on Sunday. At right, a man celebrates outside the White House. Reuters

Pacquiao says he fights like Bruce Lee

HOLLYWOOD, California—The boxing genius of Manny Pacquiao includes Ind that belong in Tinseltown," calves the size of grapefruits and deceptive power generated from his core.

His movement is unorthodox, scattered and perpetual, as if designed to eject musician. He creates angles unlike any other fighter, past or present, appearing, disappearing, drifting, dirking, on balance, off balance, even off one foot.

PACQUIAO A14

US raises security alert for Americans

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(TYPO) the "uncertainty and volatility of the current situation" following the death of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, the US Department of State has issued a global alert warning Americans overseas against a possible outbreak of anti-US violence worldwide.

"The US Department of State alerts US citizens traveling and residing abroad to the enhanced potential for anti-American violence given recent counterterrorism activity in Pakistan," the agency's Bureau of Consular Affairs (BCA) said in a May 1 advisory.

Australia issued a similar warning. In countries with significant Muslim population, including national officials, embassies and other potential targets were posting extra security measures in place instead of reprisals.

Britain confirmed it was taking extra precautions at its embassies around the world and its military bases were on height conf alert.

The global police agency Interpol also rolled for increased security measures, warning that the death of Bin Laden would provoke reprisal attacks around the world.

Supporters of Bin Laden's violent campaign took to militant Internet sites in vow revenge.

"The lions will remain lions and will continue snoring in the burrows of Osama. O Allah, America will not enjoy safety and security until we live it in

US RAISES A10

WHAT'S INSIDE

NEWS /A2
Drivers assail slow distribution of fuel cards

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Strike paralyzes Pinoy transport

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WEATHER FORECAST

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6/49 — 12 39 / 12 38 / 7 22

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4D — 2 4 7 0

MEGALOTTO 6/45 — 8 10 12 24 28 44 — P20,981,925.00

GRAND LOTTO 6/55 — 1 2 8 15 24 36 — P166,337,866.00

Only 1% of drivers got fuel cards

By Amy R. Borres

ONLY 3,000 "smart" cards were distributed yesterday under the P450-million Pantawid Pasada (Subsidy for Drivers) Program of the government, much to the dismay of jeepney drivers long waiting for the emergency assistance.

Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr. said of the number that outnumber the informants into the cards—including the plate number of the beneficiary's vehicle, the vehicle type and franchise number and other critical data—could only process 3,000 cards a day.

At this rate, Layug said, the Department of Energy (DOE) would be able to distribute the rest of the 289,000 cards to all the jeepney drivers in two months' time or by the end of June.

The distribution of smart cards, each containing P1,000 in "load," is part of the government's short-term programs to help the transport sector cope with the impact of the spiraling oil prices. The cards could be used by the government to channel its other incentives to the transport sector over the next few years.

Government officials have stressed that the assistance is merely a temporary measure.

Layug said yesterday's card distribution went well, despite complaints by the militant transport group Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahang ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston).

According to Piston, the DOE should have put up a national network of distribution centers across the country to expedite the handing out of the cards to jeepney drivers, who badly need an immediate respite from the continued spikes in the prices of petroleum products.

The 3,000 cards represented less than 10 percent of the franchised jeepneys in Metro Manila, and even less than one percent in the whole country, Piston claimed.

Prices to rise again

According to industry sources, local oil companies are again poised to raise the prices of gasoline by P1.25 up to as much as P1.50 a liter and of diesel by 25 centavos up to 80 centavos a liter.

Oil companies, however, have yet to make the announcement as of press time.

When they do, it will be the 11th time since the beginning of the year that oil firms had raised fuel prices, adding up to a total increase of over P10 per liter for both gasoline and diesel. The only three reductions, on the other hand, were marginal in comparison, at only P0.25 a liter for gasoline and 65 centavos for diesel.

Layug declined to comment on another oil price hike, saying the DOE would wait until the oil companies adjusted their prices.

LPG to cost more

Adding further to the burden of consumers is the 10-per-kilogram increase in the price of cooking gas effective Monday.

Pilipinas Shell announced the price increase for its shellane brand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) yesterday. LPG marketers Petron Corporation and Total Philippines confirmed the price adjustment in separate interviews.

The price movement raised prices of cooking gas by about P10 per 11-kg cylinder. Cooking gas from the members companies of LPGMA now retails at P720 per cylinder, according to Ty. LPGMA member companies, which supply 20% products to an estimated 30 percent of the Luzon market, carry brands like Island Gas, Regasco Gas, Pinnacle Gas, Cut Gas, Hi Gas, Omni Gas and Starlet Gas.

Yesterday was one of hottest so far

METRO MANILA and parts of Luzon sizzled yesterday in what was one of the hottest days of the year.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical Administration (Pagasa) said the temperature in Metro Manila hit 36 degrees Celsius yesterday afternoon, just a tad lower than the 36.1 measured on April 20, the hottest day recorded in the metropolis so far this year.

The highest temperature ever recorded was the one experienced in the metro on May 14, 1987, when the mercury hit 38.5.

Other cities in Luzon also suffered under sweltering heat. The temperature in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, hit 36.2 and in Dagupan City in Pangasinan, it was a scorching 37.5, the highest temperature recorded in the country yesterday, Pagasa said.

The highest temperature recorded in the Philippines was 42.2, which was felt on May 11, 1969, in Tuguegarao.

Gloria Jurado, forecaster-on-duty said Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon would feel the "hot and humid" weather in the weeks to come. The summer heat, she said, was being produced by the hot air coming off the North Pacific Ocean.

Jurado said that the hottest days are yet to come. Based on Pagasa records, the highest temperatures recorded in the country usually occurred in May.

Luzon is forecast to continue its summer weather and blue skies, but the Visayas and Mindanao will see cloudy skies and rainy days in the next 24 hours.

In an 5 p.m. advisory yesterday, Pagasa said eastern Visayas and Mindanao would have cloudy skies and rainshowers due to an intertropical convergence zone. The wind system was also expected to bring rains to Palawan, the weather bureau said.

Kristine L. Alave

GOV'T WATCH

Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
CONSUMER ADVOCATE

GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMING PUBLIC

Gov't Watch appreciates and supports PNoy's call for OIL COMPANIES TO OPEN THEIR FINANCIAL RECORDS TO THE PUBLIC in the wake of the latest oil price hikes that DoE find questionable.

By simply complying with PNoy's directive, the oil companies, specifically, Shell, Chevron and Total CAN SHOW THE CONSUMING PUBLIC THAT THEIR PRICE INCREASES ARE JUSTIFIED.

As PNoy had said, and we quote – "Kung reasonable ang price hikes, bakit hindi pwedeng ipakita ang records?"

ITEM A. **The DoE – DoJ Task Force who has remained PASSIVE FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS will work hand in hand with Gov't Watch Chairman Raul Concepcion representing the interests of the Consuming Public. Together, they will be VIGILANT and will MAKE PUBLIC the actual inventories of the Oil Companies at all times; the 15-day moving average price for the OIL IMPORTERS and the 45-day moving average price for the only OIL REFINER, Petron.**

ITEM B. **In addition to its tasks, Gov't Watch will meet with the Land Transportation & Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to ensure that the transport fares of the transport sector are aligned with the DoE-DoJ Task Force prices and the eradication of "COLORUMS".**

ITEM C. **Gov't Watch fully supports Asian Development Bank's (ADB) financing of the ELECTRIC TRICYCLE PROJECT wherein 100,000 tricycles will be initially financed.**

The cost of charging the battery of an Electric Tricycle is P 20.00 as compared to P 250.00 consumption of a gasoline-powered tricycle for a day.

Therefore, a tricycle driver will realize additional take-home earnings of P 230.00 a day, equivalent to additional gross earnings of P6,900.00 per month or P 82,800.00 for a year.

Gov't Watch will also arrange a special meeting with Mr. Sohail Hasnie, ADB Energy Specialist to discuss the manufacture of e-tricycles, e-jeepneys, e-buses and e-cars for export.

By being VIGILANT and PRO-ACTIVE during these times of economic crisis, Government must ASSURE the Consuming Public that their interests are indeed protected.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

Your comments or suggestions on this issue are important to us:

DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH ITEMS A, B & C RAISED BY GOV'T WATCH THAT WILL PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE CONSUMING PUBLIC?

Voice out your views and comments to GOV'T WATCH
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Retiring justice, nationalist's son eyed as Ombudsman

By Gil Cabacungan

A RETIRING Supreme Court justice and the lawyer-son of an illustrious nationalist are among those being considered by President Aquino to be the next Ombudsman with the resignation of Merceditas Gutierrez on May 6.

A member of the administration coalition in the House of Representatives identified them as Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales (who is set to retire on June 19) and Ateneo Law dean and former Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura.

Already mentioned for consideration by the officers in charge of the anti-corruption body Wilfredo Valmonte and former Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone suggested that Aquino look for a legal mind in the mold of the late former Sen. Jose W. Diokno, who was known for his anti-corruption crusades.

"The next Ombudsman should stand for what is right, legal and moral, and be without a iota of partisanship or constraint in his or her heart," Evardone said. "Like the late Senator Diokno. The next Ombudsman must be able to speak the truth to power; his or her independence and integrity must be unquestionable," said Evardone.

President Aquino should pick "the best material," otherwise an "unable Ombudsman" would bring down the government, Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile said.

"You cannot just get someone there who is not trained," he told reporters.

Gutierrez's replacement will be expected to act on cases promptly" said Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago. "Now the bar is higher," she added.

De Lima said the JBC had reached a consensus that the next Ombudsman should serve a full seven-year term.

Midnight appointees

Even before she had stepped down from office, Bataan Mutia party-list Rep. Keri Gonzalez wanted that Gutierrez had reported made a number of "midnight appointments" for assistant ombudsmen and director generals, apparently to ensure her perversion in the agency after she leaves.

According to Gonzalez: "She appointed eight assistant ombudsmen, including the head of the fact-finder team panel that drafted the arrow-filled charges against Ungriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante. Gutierrez also appointed various directors thereby closing the door on the new Ombudsman from bringing in credible and independent officials into the Ombudsman's office.

"If Merci's appointees have dedicated terms of (expiration) then it would be best if they immediately tender their courtesy resignation, so that the office of the Ombudsman would have a clean slate," said Gonzalez.

Deputy Minority Leader and Zambales Rep. Mitos Magsaysay said the President should include only his allies who benefited from the alleged corrupt activities in the previous administration among those the new Ombudsman would go after.

Unfair to single out GMA

Magsaysay said it would be unfair for the next Ombudsman to focus in on one individual, former President and incumbent Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, when there were other individuals who were now administration allies that were implicated in the alleged corruption cases.

Malacañang yesterday said it hoped the next Ombudsman would review the controversial plea bargain between ousting Ombudsman Gutierrez and former military comptroller Carlos Garcia.

President Aquino has been questioning the plea bargain which virtually lets Garcia off the hook if he returns about half of what he is accused of stealing.

It's up to JBC

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the Palace yesterday sent the resignation letter of Gutierrez to the JBC so that the body could start accepting nominations for her replacement.

Lacierda said the Palace would have "no control or discretion over the actions of the Ombudsman" once he or she is appointed.

Asked whether the choice of the new Ombudsman would factor in his stand on the Garcia plea bargain, Lacierda said the President will choose the country's chief graft buster according to the "recommends and qualifications" submitted to the Commission.

The presidential spokesperson also said President Aquino still had "no specific person in mind" since Gutierrez' resignation was "unexpected."

Asked to comment on calls made by some groups for a revamp in the Ombudsman's office on the affair of the out-going chief would not remain, Lacierda said it would be up to the new Ombudsman to "do the necessary reforms that he or she feels should be introduced in the Office of the Ombudsman." With reports from TJ Burgonio, Christine O. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeon

Resignation won't end Merci's woes–Chavez

By Kristine L. Alave

DAVAO CITY – Merceditas Gutierrez may have ended the term of an impeachment trial when she resigned last Friday, but she cannot escape from the misdeeds, former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez said.

Chavez, who had agreed to testify at her trial before it was canceled, said he was "disappointed" that Gutierrez would not be impeached by lawmakers.

Chavez had also filed an impeachment complaint against the Ombudsman, saying that she failed to act on his complaint regarding the misuse of over-seas workers' welfare funds.

The Office of the Ombudsman, however, replied that the case Chavez mentioned had been acted on in 2007. The Ombudsman found there was no irregularity.

By resigning from her post, the impeachment proceedings against Gutierrez have become moot.

"Previously, I am disappointed. It closed one avenue for the sitting publicly of her and (former President Gloria Macapagal-) Arroyo's misdeeds," Chavez said in an interview.

But if Gutierrez thinks the allegations against her will go away when she leaves, "she is clearly mistaken," Chavez added.

Without the immunity and powers and influence offered by her post, Chavez said it would be easier for other groups to file cases against her and face her more superior in the courts.

He also said he would refile the plunder cases filed against Arroyo and other officials in connection with the alleged misuse of health insurance funds from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa). "It can be refiled," Chavez said.

The money, which amounted to P130 million, was transferred to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. and was used by Arroyo's re-election in 2004, Chavez claimed.

Other critics of Gutierrez yesterday said her temporary replacement should wait for the appointment of a new Ombudsman before filing the information in charge sheet in the fertilizer fund scam case.

High court orders Palace to answer Pichay petition

By Jeraldo Aning

THE SUPREME Court has ordered Malacañang, the Philippine Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) chief Diosdado Pichay's petition contesting the right of a newly-formed office under the executive branch to investigate him over a P480-million malfeasance case.

A resolution issued last Friday by Chief Justice Renato Corona on behalf of the Supreme Court ordered Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and the investigative and Adjudicatory Division of the Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs (IAD-Oslea) to answer Pichay's contention that the creation of the latter agency was unconstitutional.

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez, in a text message on Sunday, said the respondents were given 10 days to file their reply upon receipt of the order.

"Considering that the Supreme Court is still on its publicity setting season, the order was given by authority of Chief Justice Corona," said Marquez, meaning that the high tribunal, upon resumption of its regular sessions this month, may approve or disapprove the order in accordance with the court's internal rules.

Pichay, however, did not get a temporary restraining order as he had asked in his petition. Owing this reason, Corona is slated to recommend to raise a TRO on the court's behalf. Marquez said the court may still determine when it reconvenes.

The IAD has yet to complete its investigation of the administrative case against Pichay and other members of the LWUA board of trustees which pertains to P480.86 allegedly anomalous acquisition of a Laguna-based BOT bank in 2008, in which the government supposedly invested hundreds of millions of pesos.

On April 5, Noynoy, in his concurrent capacity as Monetary Board chair, fired graft and bank regulation violation charges against Pichay and four other board members in the Office of the Ombudsman.

SC takes Comelec's side

THE SUPREME Court has declared for lack of merit an election watchdog group's petition to have the Commission on Elections (Comelec) shortlist contractor for imposing restrictions on the review of the source codes for the automated election system used in the May 2010 elections.

In a five-page resolution, the high court junked the petition of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (Cenpeg), saying the Comelec had valid reasons for imposing the restrictions.

"Some of these conditions, essentially designed to prevent copying, appropriation and unauthorized use of the source code, have been deemed valid or nullifying it impossible for Cenpeg to conduct a proper source code review," said the tribunal.

Cenpeg has not even attempted to do the review under such conditions," it added.

Under Comelec rules, an interested party that wants to conduct a review of the source codes should sign a nondisclosure agreement, submit its methodology, do the review in a restricted facility on read-only copy, not take out the codes or any part of it or bring copying equipment, and submit a report to the Comelec after the review.

The court said the source codes continued to be the intellectual property of Smartmatic-TIM Information Management Corp., which supplied the automated voting machines.

The high tribunal said Cenpeg could not demand the same conditions that the Comelec had allowed when international election systems, an Illinois company Applied Labs reviewed the source codes as required by law.

It explained that Applied Labs' review focused part of the source code preparation process and was different from the review Cenpeg intended to do.

The high court had ruled in September 2010 that the Comelec should make the source codes available to Cenpeg and other interested political parties or groups for independent review. (Philip C. Salaver

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Salonga et al. urge SC to overturn its ruling on Danding

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INQUIRIES WELCOME

By Philip C. Tubeza

PRAYING that the Supreme Court would "see the light," business heir of Ubo and Marina Hernandez smuggled coconut farmers yesterday asked the high tribunal to set aside its ruling awarding 20 percent of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) to Marina' crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

In a 319-page motion for reconsideration, former Senate President Jovito Salonga, his heir Ben Wilfredo "Billadin and five coconut farmers said the high court had erred in ruling that Cojuangco owned the shares.

"With all due respect, petitioners-intervenors and the many coconut farmers they represent will not allow themselves to be confined or erased by the flawed logic and blind reasoning behind this erroneous decision of the Honorable Court," the petition said.

"With all due respect, the erring justices need reminding that much of what they require evidence for are matters of settled law, admissions and submissions of record, and even judicial notice," it added.

Tribadia told reporters after filing the motion that the high court would be committing a "grave injustice" if it affirms its ruling.

"We are still hoping the Supreme Court justices, the majority, will see the light. It would really be a huge mistake if this is not corrected," Tribadia said.

Grave injustice

"The shares could now be worth P90 billion...If not corrected, (the decision) would be a grave injustice not just to the government but also to the common farmers," he added.

The petition pointed out that Cojuangco violated his "fiduciary obligations and ethics" when he took the loans from United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) and Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) companies to buy the SMC shares while he was an official of those firms.

"With all due respect, contrary to the unjust...erroneous, give Cojuangco and unfaithful ruling of the Honorable Court, even assuming for the sake of argument that the loan proceeds from UCPB and the CIIF companies are not public funds, still, respondent Cojuangco in the purchase of the (SMC shares) from such loan proceeds violated his fiduciary obligations," the petition said.

It said government lawyers were able to show that Cojuangco used public funds to buy the 5000 shares.

Funded by UCPB, CIIF

"The subject SMC shares, having been purchased from funds sourced from UCPB and the CIIF companies...are deemed to have been purchased with public funds," the petition said.

It noted that Cojuangco had admitted that the borrowings were funded by the CIIF companies.

"Since the CIIF companies have been found to belong to the government, then such borrowings from which the subject SMC shares were bought are the liabilities of the government, for which reason such SMC shares should properly pertain to the government," it added.

'Abadilla 5' cop opposes charges

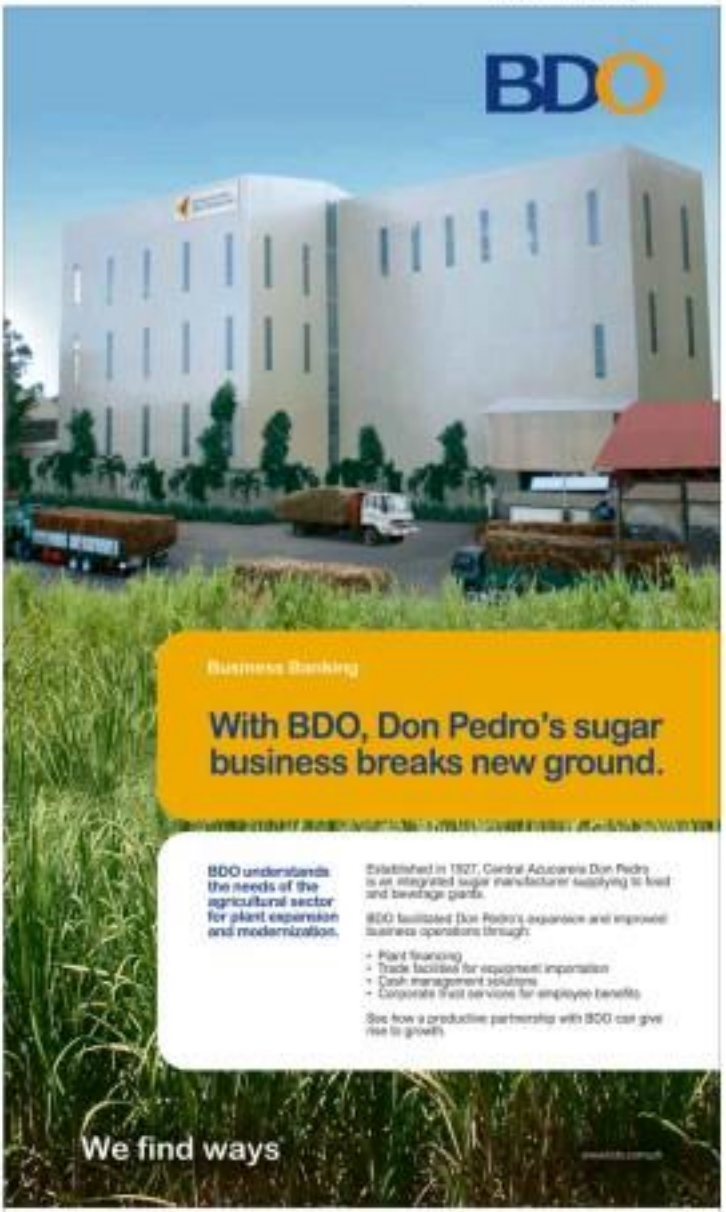
[illegible] he was denied due process, a senior police officer has asked the Sandiganbayan to dismiss criminal charges filed against him for the alleged mistreatment of members of the group known as the "Abadilla 5."

Senior Insp. Edilberto Nicanor, in his motion, asked the court to quash the information filed against him, also said that he could not be charged before the Sandiganbayan because his rank was not high enough.

Nicanor is one of 15 policemen facing charges of maltreatment of prisoners, violation of the rights of arrested person and delay in the delivery of detained persons to the proper judicial authorities in connection with a complaint filed by the Abadilla 5—Leandro Limsiong, Isaac Fortuna, Joel de Jesus, Ramonito de Jesus and Augusto Santos.

The five men, who have been convicted for the killing of former military intelligence official Rolando Abadilla, alleged that they were tortured following their arrest.

According to Nicanor, he was not given a full and fair opportunity to participate in the preliminary investigation of the charges against him before the Department of Justice and Office of the Ombudsman. Leila B. Salaverria



Church starts 'novena for life' to counter passage of RH bill

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE CATHOLIC Church began a nine-day novena for life on the "inauspicious" day of the feast/burden of Pope John Paul II, again to step up its campaign against a legislative measure that will put birth control back on the Philippine development agenda.

Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, Manila director of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said the novena-for-life will end on May 9, the day Congress will again take up the reproductive health (RH) bill.

The bill will institutionalize family planning promotion, including sex education in schools. The Catholic Church is against modern birth-control methods.

"This novena has one intention, that all Filipinos may be enlightened about the Gospel of Life of Pope John Paul II," said Quitorio in an interview Saturday night.

The Gospel of Life or Evangelium Vitae is the encyclical written by the late pontiff opposing the Catholic Church's stance on the value and sacredness of human life. He issued the letter in March 1995.

Quitorio said it was "fairly appropriate" to start the novena on the day the Vatican marked the last formal step before Pope John Paul's sainthood and also on the day the Catholic Church observed Divine Mercy Sunday.

Supported by the Church historically, the novena is spearheaded by Church-run Radio Veritas, the CBCP Media Office, member organizations of the banggaanang Lasiko ng Pilipinas and various youth groups, said Quitorio.

The nine-day vigil is held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily at Dambana ng Kaligtasan in Intramuros, Manila.

The novena to stop the RH bill will be replicated in several dioceses in the capital, he said.

A novena is a private or public devotion consisting of a prayer repeated for nine successive days to obtain special graces.

They will be praying that the RH bill, renamed the reproductive health bill, would be opposed by the legislators.

Proponents, however, say the bill will stop the rate near family planning practices of the poorest areas. Family planning programs were strongly promoted by the Marcos, Estrada and Ramos administrations. However, the Arroyo administration followed the Catholic line and limited family planning promotion to the Church-approved "natural" method.

John Paul II rouses town that hosted Viet refugees

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

MORONG, Bataan – The visit of Blessed John Paul II, cherished through a shrine lined with a wooden cross sculpted and presented to him by a Vietnamese refugee in 1981, stirred the clergy town to life yesterday.

"We're a very happy town today. Our people are very excited about the event," Mayor Celso Lino Ennrialso said, referring to the inauguration of the Blessed John Paul II Shrine inside the Nature Technology Park (BTP) here.

The late Pope celebrated Mass on Feb. 21, 1981, at the BTP, the former site of the Philippine Refugee Processing Center (PRPC) that served as a temporary home for thousands of "boat people" who had fled Vietnam after its fall to communism years in 1975.

During the Pope's visit in 1981, Msgr. Vicente Groenen, who attended the papal Mass, said the Pontiff asked the refugees not to lose hope amid their displacement.

"God loves you," Quanpo quoted the Pope as telling the refugees.

The cave for them by the Filipinos and foreigners working in the PRPC, a facility that was overseen by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), was the manifestation of that love, the Pope was said to have told some 20,000 refugees during his homily.

But the people of Morong and its local government are celebrating without the extravagance. There are no marching bands, blaring sound systems or barongs. Around 10 tarpaulins were hung along the route to the shrine in Barangay Sabang.

There is no visible Swiss guard. Beach resorts did not capitalize on the shrine to draw tourists but some resort owners reported giving more pilgrims guests on Sunday night.

The Our Lady of Fillar Church a short stroll or ferry. Large photographs of Blessed John Paul II and the Divine Mercy are on the sides of the altar, to the right wing is a mini museum of the 1981 papal visit and Mass.

"Our people feel that (a opening) term, they've uplifted because our small town can't have to be blessed by the presence of the Pope, "Ennrialso said.

"Pope John Paul II is back with us through his image," a copy of the missal he the shrine's opening said. The late Pontiff is shown in the sculpture traveling with a refugee family in a rough sea.

Ennrialso said she is proud that although the town is small, the Pope chose to visit its residents in 1981.

The town's name used to be "Moron" until 1965 congress, through then Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, changed it to "Morong."

Founded in 1578 as part of the Corregimiento de Hermosa together with Bagac, Orani and Mariveles, Cavite, Morong had its first ecclesiastical parish in 1667.

The town is one of the beautiful municipalities fronting the South China Sea. Some 17,340 hectares of the town's total land area of 21,139 hectares are forest lands.

A poor fishing and farming village, the town's economy has been given a boost by the investment of Apalo Land Inc. on Anawangin Cove and the development of about 82 beach resorts.

"Houses that Morong will be a pilgrim site," Ennrialso said. Most residents are Catholic while some are members of the Philippine Independent Church and Iglesia ni Cristo.

At least 3,000 people attended the shrine's opening at 3 p.m.

Correction

IN THE MAY 2, 2011 ISSUE, an article on Page A4 carried an erroneous headline. It should have read "The early, epic news note in 2011," not 2012.

Corrections about lack of fairness or other errors may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail (to) [illegible] or fax No. 897-47-54. Attn: The Publisher. Telephone number 0917 8000 [illegible]

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After Kate, Prince William kissed his Filipino nanny

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Royal nanny Jessah "Lilibe" Pierrecon Sandoy said Prince William thanked her twice for coming to his wedding and, along with his bride Kate, donned her on serving her at the reception at Clarence House on Friday.

Pierro, who is from Bacolod City, was the lone Filipino invited to the royal wedding, having served as a nanny to both Prince William and Prince Harry, and later working for their mother Princess Diana.

"I acted at the wedding. It was both a happy and sad occasion for me," she told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Pierro was happy to see the boy she had cared for now into a handsome young man and finally got married, but she wept at the thought that his mother, Princess Diana, could not be at his wedding.

"The princess would have been so proud of him," she said.

Pierro said she had breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner at Clarence House on the day of the wedding and went home past 10 p.m. on Friday.

With the rest of the staff

When Prince William and his bride arrived at Clarence House from the Buckingham Palace reception in a dark blue Aston Martin, Pierro, along with the rest of the staff, lined up in the courtyard.

She said they were briefed to curtsy when the royals arrived.

"When Prince William drove in there was loud applause from everyone and all of a sudden I heard him call out 'Di Lilibe' and he came up to hug and kiss me, as if he really missed me," Pierro said.

"I was dumbfounded ... I was not able to say anything."

"He said he was so happy I came to his wedding and asked how I was. He also said he liked my dress," Lilibe said. She wore a dress made by Bacolod designer Lourden Lipa.

She added that Kate, who also kissed her, asked how she knew Prince William.

According to Pierro, Prince William told his bride that "She (Pierro) looked after Mummy before."

Stopped to talk

"I told her I had been working for the family since William was a baby. She (Kate) was beautiful and sweet," she said. "Everybody was looking at us because Prince William and Kate stopped to talk to me."

Asked if Kate was like Princess Diana, Pierro said, "Nobody can wear the shoes of Princess Diana. She was one of a kind, she was beautiful, kind and generous. She taught her boys to be humble."

Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, arrived at Clarence House later the said.

"Prince Charles came up to me and asked how I was and asked where I was working, and I told him I was retired," she said.

Pierro added that she was having snacks when someone tapped her on the shoulder. "When I looked up, it was Prince Harry. I tried to get up to curtsy to him but he told me to sit and he kissed me," she said.

A lonely couple

Later in the evening, Pierro said she saw Prince William come down dressed in his tuxedo along with his wife who was wearing a white gown to go to another party at Buckingham Palace.

"He looked so handsome, and she looked beautiful," she said.

On Saturday, Pierro said she was surprised to get a call from Bernie, the butler at Clarence House.

"He told me Prince William told him before he left in order not to call and thank me for attending his wedding, and that he was so happy that I was there," she said.

IT WAS LIKE from this kiss Chef Bridget's Prince William gave his new wife Kate on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, seen in below, the boy Chef Filipino nanny Lilibe Pierro got from her for how much at the wedding except in from just as memorable.

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Elisa R. Lazaro; 90

ELISA R. Lazaro, widow of Mr. Justino S. Lazaro, Knight of St. Sylvester, died on April 30 at the age of 90.

She is survived by her children: Minnie and Gary Aranda, Frankie and Lorie Mariano, Melot and Shelly Agustin, Benjo and Dolf Magno, Annie and Arnold Arbo, Rose and Jessie Ildefonsos, and Rhea and Lucy Calingan.

Her remains lie in the family residence at 863 M. H. del Pilar St., Balintawak, Navotas, Bulacan. Cremation will be on May 5 following the morning Mass at St. Martin of Tours Parish Church.

Women can get free cervical cancer screening this month

By Jocelyn R. Uy

HEALTH officials yesterday announced that the government is giving free cervical cancer screening to women aged 30 to 45 in 58 Department of Health-accredited hospitals nationwide in observance of cervical cancer awareness month this May.

According to Dr. Eric de los Reyes, vice president of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, the high occurrence of cervical cancer among Filipino women has "not markedly changed" over the years.

The prevalence of the disease remained high between 28.3 percent and 32 percent per 100,000 population from 1980 to 2000. In the country, listed De los Reyes in a press briefing yesterday at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Manila.

Cervical cancer is most often caused by a genital human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, which can be prevented through vaccination. Cervical cancer can also be treated when detected in the early stages through regular uterine and/or Pap smear screening.

To overcome the resistance to be subjected, the incidence of cervical cancer could increase to 82 percent in the Asia Pacific by 2025, warned De los Reyes.

Based on the 2008 records of the Philippine Cancer Society, cervical cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among Filipino women, next to breast cancer. At least 12 women die of cervical cancer every day in the country.

"Make this (free screening) a gift to yourself," said Dr. Eric Yong, head of the National Epidemiology Center and acting health undersecretary.

At least 10,000 Filipino women are seen to benefit from the month-long free screening, said Yong.

In Metro Manila, the free cervical cancer screening method will be conducted every Monday the online launch to the following hospitals:

Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Dr. Jose Rizalita Memorial Hospital, East Avenue Medical Center, Tondo Medical Center, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Amang Rodriguez Medical Center, Las Piñas General Hospital.

Valenzuela General Hospital, San Lorenzo Ruiz Memorial Hospital, National Children's Hospital and Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital.

Women in Luzon can avail of the free tests in DOH-accredited hospitals every Wednesday.

Visayas and Mindanao hospitals have designated Thursdays and Tuesdays, respectively, as free cervical screening day.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

(May 3 | Tuesday)
Feast: Week 3
Philip and James, Apostles
1 Pt 1:22-2, 4-9

Their message goes over the length all the earth.

1st Reading: 1 Cor 15: 1-8

Let me remind you, brothers and sisters, of the Good News that I preached to you and which you received and on which you now stand firm. By that Gospel you are saved, provided that you hold on to it precisely as I preached it to you. Otherwise, your call have believed in vain.

In the first place, I have passed on to you what I myself received: that Christ died for our sins, as Scripture says; that he was buried; that he was raised to life on the third day, according to the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. Afterwards he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters together, most of them are still alive, although some have already gone to rest. Then he appeared to James and after that to all the apostles. And last of all, he appeared to me also—to me, despicable as I am.

Gospel: Jn 14:6-14

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no one comes to the Father but through me. If you know me, you will know the Father also; indeed you know him already, and you have seen him."

Philip asked him, "Lord, show us the Father, and that is enough."

Jesus said to him, "What! I have been with you so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever sees me sees the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

All that I say to you, I do not say of myself. The Father who dwells in me is doing his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; at least believe it on the evidence of these works that I do.

Truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me will do the same works that I do; and he will even do greater than these, for I am going to the Father. Everything you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Indeed, anything you ask, calling up on my name, I will do.

Reflection

There are people who are so transparent that they become reflections of people who had the most influence in their lives, first in, for example, the parents. It is not uncommon for an ex-comment to some daughter's that when you see the quirky image of their parents, or habits and acts like their parents. In this situation, we could only conclude one thing, the Jesus Christian there is so in one that the "parents" literally live through the image and likeness of their sons and daughters. Jesus is so loved by the Father. He knew it and He never doubted. That is why His statement of the Father you deep down merely understand. They mutually live in each other.

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DFA gets P205M to bring distressed OFWs home

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(TTBU) at least P205 million in newly replenished funds for its Assistance to Nationals (ATN) unit, the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said it was ready to repatriate some 4,500 undocumented overseas Filipino workers from Saudi Arabia.

The ATN now has "sufficient funds" for the repatriation of the distressed OFWs in the Middle East kingdom, DFA spokesperson Erlinda Basilio told the business.

Some of the distressed workers have been living in a port terminal and under a bridge in the Saudi city of Jeddah, earlier reports had said.

It will cost the government at least P345 million to bring home all the 4,500 OFWs in Jeddah, Riyadh and Al-Khobar, among others Basilio cited, hosting Philippine engineers' workers, according to Vice President Jejomar Binay, who paid an official visit to the kingdom recently.

Exit visas issued

The Philippine Embassy in Riyadh also "continues to facilitate the securing of exit visas for Filipinos in Saudi Arabia who would like to come home," Malaya said.

The Saudi mission, headed by Ambassador designate Gracindo Tago, had issued "more than 600 plane tickets for those whose exit clearances have been secured," Malaya said.

He noted that "a good number of distressed Filipinos were repatriated recently. Last April 30, 300 were cleared for exit by local authorities."

Another senior diplomat pointed out "the problem... [was] has not in the funding availability."

Left without permission

"The repatriation of undocumented OFWs could have been faster if not for the relative slow processing of the exit clearances by Saudi officials," Basilio said, the limited number of available commercial airline tickets during this high travel season," the DFA official said.

The source, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak, noted that "a sizeable number of our kababayan who are to be repatriated had left their original sponsoring employers without permission and overstaying, an objection overwhelmingly from the latter was difficult."

Jerry Salgado, Binay's spokesperson, confirmed "money for the OFWs repatriation" is now with the DFA in response to the Vice President's letter to Aldenadung."

"The authorization was relayed verbally (to Binay's office by a Palace official," said Salgado.

According to Salgado, the Office of the Vice President and the DFA will work together "to probably match the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration for the immediate repatriation of overstaying OFWs in Saudi Arabia."

Earlier, Binay said he was considering tapping the private sector and local government units to raise funds for the repatriation of the OFWs.

In early April, Binay urged President Aquino a letter requesting the release of P[illegible] million to fund the repatriation of at least 3,084 OFWs housed in the Al-Mina Hajj Terminal in Jeddah.

Binay said the government was paying P5 [illegible] (almost P170,500) daily for every OFW at the facility.

"This creates a serious drain on the limited resources of the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh," he said.

According to Binay, the President has had previously authorized this funding, as requested by the DFA. But the Department of Budget and Management simply referred it back to the DFA.

A SNIFFER DOG is put through its paces by its handler at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday. Authorities are two types of dogs—one that sniffs for drugs and the other that farms out bombs. The NAIA is on heightened alert following the killing of al-Qaida terrorist leader Osama bin Laden earlier this

It'll be far from a dog's life for PAL K-9s in retirement

By Jerry E. Esplanada

AT PHILIPPINE Airlines, the cliche about canines being man's best friend could not be more apt.

PAL's stash unit of explosive detection dogs, or EDDs, is said 11 of its more than 50 hounds—as Labor Day making sure they were sent off with "well-deserved recognition."

"Instead of being sold off like most retiring canines, we're making arrangements for our hardworking dogs Bruno, Max, Jupiter, Mercury, Pluto, Venus, Arius, Hector, Hera, Hayda, and Bianca to be adopted by their crew handlers," Lucio Tan Jr., chairman, PAL vice president for corporate communications, told the business.

Handler-dog bond

De Guzman said "this will ensure that the bond forged over many years between the dogs and their handlers will not be severed."

The 11 Belgian Malinois, all part of PAL's own breeding program, "will be turned over to the eager and waiting arms of their handlers upon the release of their adoption papers," De Guzman added.

"Under an agreement, the handlers each will the dogs. We want to make sure that the adopting persons have the right good care of them. The canines have been an important part of the PAL family and we want to treat them with dignity even in retirement," De Guzman said.

He said that, "initially, PAL thought of selling them. But we realized that it's not the proper way to send off our specially trained dogs."

Most of the retirees had served PAL for five years.

No longer effective

"For EDDs, the average length of service is eight to nine years. But we're retiring the lot[illegible] early. According to the dogs' trainers and vets, they're no longer effective as EDDs, if not productive as breeders," said De Guzman.

PAL is the "only Philippine carrier with its own K-9 unit," noted De Guzman.

The airline's K-9 program, began in 2004, is a "mark of PAL's commitment to robust security," he added.

"Each year, PAL spends close to P5 million just for dog food, grooming and veterinary needs. The figure rises to almost P15 million annually with the inclusion of utility and transportation costs of dog handlers, trainers and helpers for every canine, a handler is assigned by the airline," said De Guzman.

The K-9 unit's expenses "includes the upkeep of PAL's canine-facility located inside the airline's Flight Operations Center on Andrews Avenue, Pasay City), where 35 imported and locally-bred Belgian Malinois, Labrador Retrievers and German Shepherds are housed. The facility has an open space big enough for dogs to play, run and train in," De Guzman said.

"Most of the dogs were imported at an average cost of $6,000, or about P258,000 each," he said.

On to the field. PAL's canines are "key assistants in the security and other dangerous work of sniffing out possible explosive substances."

"Each dog is on duty at least three to four hours daily. They are assigned at the PAL hub at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal and PAL cargo terminal. They also inspect the airline's fleet of 19 wide-body Boeing 777's and 747's and Airbus 340s and 320s which serve a total of 20 domestic and 25 international destinations," said De Guzman.

The EDDs "complement the efforts of airport and aviation police who have come to appreciate their additional man-power," he added.

The crack K-9 unit has "made several arrests in connection the K-9 Explosive Detection Competence organized by the Manila International Airport Authority in December 2009."

How US hunted down al-Qaida chief

From page A1

US cable TV networks said a senior US official reported that Bin Laden's body had been buried in the sea without giving further details. No details were revealed, but an administration official earlier said of the corpse: "We are ensuring that it is handled in accordance with Islamic practice and tradition."

Burying Bin Laden's body at sea would ensure that his final resting place does not become a shrine and a place of pilgrimage for his followers, ABC television said.

For nearly a decade, American military and intelligence forces had chased the specter of Bin Laden through Pakistan and Afghanistan, once coming agonizingly close and losing him in a pitched battle at Tora Bora, in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan. So Obama administration officials described it, the raid broke through caves where they finally figured out the name and location of Bin Laden's most trusted courier, whom the Qaida chief apparently relied on to maintain contacts with the outside world.

Developers at the prince at Pennsylvania Bay, Cebu, had given the country's pseudonym to American intelligence and said that the man was a protégé of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Tracking took 4 years

American intelligence officials said on Sunday night that they finally hunted the courier's real name four years ago, but that it took another two years for them to learn the general region where he operated.

Still, it was not until August when they tracked him to the compound in Abbottabad, a medium-sized city about an hour's drive north of Islamabad, the capital.

CIA analysts spent the next several weeks examining satellite photos and intelligence reports to determine who might be living at the compound, and senior administration officials said that by September the CIA had determined there was a "strong possibility" that Bin Laden himself was hiding there.

It was hardly the spartan cave in the mountains where many had envisioned Bin Laden to be hiding. Rather, it was a mansion on the outskirts of the town's center, set on an imposing hilltop and ringed by 12-foot-high concrete walls topped with barbed wire.

The property, located 100 meters from a Pakistani military academy, was valued at $1 million, but it had neither a telephone nor an Internet connection. Its residents were so concerned about security that they burned their trash rather than putting it on the street for collection like their neighbors.

Hideout built in 2005

American officials believed that the compound, built in 2005, was designed for the specific purpose of hiding Bin Laden.

Months more of intelligence work would follow before American spies felt highly confident that it was indeed Bin Laden and his family who were hiding in there—and before President Barack Obama determined that the intelligence was solid enough to begin planning a mission to go after the Qaida leader.

On March 14, Obama held the first of what would be five national security meetings in the course of the next six weeks to go over plans for the operation.

The meetings, attended by only the president's closest national security aides, took place in office in White House officials assembled in court a possible government shutdown over the budget.

Four more similar meetings to discuss the plan would follow, until Obama gathered his aides one final time last Friday.

Pakistan kept in the dark

Even after the president signed the formal orders authorizing the raid, Obama chose to keep Pakistan's government in the dark about the operation.

"We shared our intelligence on this compound with no other country, including Pakistan," a senior administration official said.

It is no surprise that the administration chose not to tell Pakistani officials. Even though the Pakistanis had assured that Bin Laden was not in their country, the United States never really believed it. American diplomatic cables in recent years show constant American pressure on Pakistan to help find and kill Bin Laden.

Assault after midnight

On Sunday night, the small team of American military and intelligence operators poured out of helicopters for their attack on the heavily fortified compound.

Pakistani officials said a senior aide to Bin Laden's guards opened fire from the roof of the building and one of the choppers crashed. The sound of at least two explosions rocked the small town where the al-Qaida chief made his last stand.

After midnight, a large number of commandos entered the compound. Three helicopters were hovering overhead. After a sudden flurry of gunfire, the helicopters flew in, and the commandos entered the building.

Bin Laden was killed in the first assault team, which had reached the dramatic scene unfold from his rooftop.

When the shooting had stopped, Bin Laden and three other men lay dead. One woman, whom an American official said had been used as a human shield by one of the Qaida operatives, was also killed.

OSAMA HIDEOUT Pakistani soldiers walk past a compound, surrounded in red fabric, where locals reported a few light took place overnight in Abbottabad, north of Islamabad, on Monday AP

A US national security official told lawmakers that the special forces team was under orders to kill Bin Laden, making clear that there was no intention to capture him alive in Pakistan. "This was a kill operation," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Buried at sea

The Americans collected Bin Laden's body and headed to carry out of the remaining helicopters, and the assault force hastily left the scene.

Obama administration officials said that one of helicopters went down during the mission because of mechanical failure but that no Americans were injured.

It was 2:56 on Sunday afternoon in Washington when President Obama received the news that Bin Laden had been definitively been identified, most likely after a series of DNA tests.

The Qaida leader's body was flown to Afghanistan, the country where he made his first fighting and killing forays while during the 1980s.

From there, American officials said, the body was buried at sea. *Report by from New York Times News Service, AP, AFP and Reuters*

US raises security alert for Americans

From page A1

Pakistan," one senior senior on the Mountain al-Masry harym.

"The celebrations are winning. Cheer all you want infidel, you only have a limited amount of time in this life in which to do it," another tweeter.

While some experts said that Bin Laden's death would damage al-Qaida's brand image, and perhaps lead the organization to fracture still further along geographical lines, most predicted attacks would continue.

"The United States will underestimately call for, because jihadists have a tendency to avenge their slain chiefs," warned Matthieu Guidere, a French academic who specializes in the Arab world.

After the death of the leader of al-Qaida's group in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarkawi, in April 2006, his successor launched a wave of suicide attacks against US and Iraqi targets, Guidere noted.

And although the figurehead of the operation has died in a plush Pakistani mountain resort and garrison town south of Islamabad, al-Qaida militants in the field have long been accepting independently.

"The attacked level, the death of Bin Laden is not a decisive victory, as for many years he has not been an operational leader and the power has been in the hands of local commanders," Guidere said.

Lost brand label

Jean-Pierre Filiu, a professor at the Sciences-Po school in Paris and author of a book on al-Qaeda, said Bin Laden's death would accelerate the group's existing division into separate fighting entities.

"Osama bin Laden's leadership was in such ideological. He was the only one able to unite all the disparate groups around the world," said anti-terrorist judge Marc Trevidic, stating al-Qaeda had lost a brand label.

Nevertheless, Frank Foulkner, a senior lecturer in sociology and terrorism studies at the University of Derby in Britain, said that revenge attacks were inevitable.

"It's just a case of when and where," he said.

Extra vigilance

Intrepid secretary general Ronald Noble urged "extra vigilance" from "law enforcement authorities in a heightened state of alert from al-Qaida affiliated or al-Qaida inspired terrorists as a result of Bin Laden's death."

"The world's most wanted international terrorist is no more," Noble said in a statement issued by Interpol.

"But the death of Bin Laden does not represent the demise of al-Qaida affiliates and those inspired by al-Qaida, who have and will continue to engage in terrorist attacks around the world," he said.

"We therefore need to remain united and focused in our ongoing cooperation and fight, not only against this global threat but also against terrorism by any group anywhere," he added.

Noble said Interpol, a global coordinating body based in France that works with national police forces in 188 member states, was "on full alert for acts of retaliation should al-Qaida try to prove they still exist."

Limit travel, avoid rallies

The DOS strongly urged Americans "in areas where recent events could cause anti-American reactions to take their frustrations out on their homes and hotels and avoid mass gatherings and demonstrations."

US citizens should also "stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings ... US citizens abroad are urged to monitor the local news and maintain security with the nearest US embassy or consulate," said the travel alert, which expires on Aug. 1.

It noted that "media coverage of local events may cause family and friends to become concerned for their loved ones traveling and residing abroad."

"We urge US citizens to keep in regular contact with family and friends," said the DOS.

The state department said US embassy operations in affected areas would continue to the extent possible under the constraints of any evolving security situation.

"US government facilities worldwide remain at a heightened state of alert. These facilities may temporarily close or periodically suspend public services to assess their security posture. In those instances, US embassies and consulates will make every effort to provide emergency services to US citizens," it said.

Spearing Schoen & Thompson, spokesperson of the US embassy in Manila, did not comment on the travel alert.

Instead, Thompson referred the inquiries to the DOS website —www.travel.state.gov— which she said "has the most up-to-date information."

Main alert

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) has placed four terminals of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) under "heightened alert" status following Bin Laden's death.

In a May 2 memorandum, Vicente Ureste Jr., MIAA assistant general manager, said the move was necessary "as a precautionary measure to ensure the security and safety of airport users, as well as protect our infrastructures."

Ureste said the following security measures shall be immediately implemented at Naia Terminals 1 to 4:

- Strict access control procedures for both personnel and vehicles.
- Rigid inspection of office passengers and cargo at security checkpoints.
- Intensified police visibility as well as K-9 patrolling at the terminals.
- Maximized deployment of patrol vehicles at aircraft movement areas and airport perimeter.
- Intensified intelligence and monitoring operations as well as networking with other security units.

Ureste said "matters that may affect smooth airport operations must be brought to the immediate attention of Mr. Ad. General Manager Jose Angel Honrado." *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

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PH steps up security measures

By Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Pazzibugan

PHILIPPINE authorities are stepping up security measures, with President Aquino saying the country and all other nations "should remain vigilant" in the fight against terrorism despite the death of Osama bin Laden.

"The Philippine National Police has increased its security patrols over the diplomatic areas, and we are making sure that the areas of our embassies are all protected and enhanced. There is a hardening of target areas," the Department's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said yesterday.

Among the diplomatic areas where police visibility has been increased is the US embassy in Manila.

Officials have also beefed up security at Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"Because of this unprecedented news, we are making sure that all our security steps are in place," Lacierda said.

Mr. Aquino said the al-Qaida leader's death "marks a signal defeat for the forces of extremism and terrorism."

"Let us not forget that this is not just an achievement for the United States. It has brought justice to over a dozen Filipinos who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center," the President said in a statement read by Lacierda.

Saying the death of Bin Laden "should not fall so into complacency," Mr. Aquino said the "world must continue to unanimously and courageously resolve to relentlessly wage against all forms hatred, political interference, and terrorism of all kinds."

The Philippines joined the US-led coalition against terrorism after the 9/11 attacks. US forces have been sent to Mindanao to help Filipino soldiers fight the Abu Sayyaf, an extremist group linked to al-Qaeda.

Panelinjan Puiz, Stella Estrel and Bin Laden's death underscored the benefits of cooperation between nations in combating terror.

Retaliation

A Catholic bishop deemed the death of Bin Laden a significant development in curbing terrorism in the world, while another bishop advised the government to be on guard for possible retaliatory attacks by his supporters in the country.

"Although [his death] is a blessing of relief and an act of violence can be justified ... it's a big deal to curb violence," said Cotabato Bishop Dinoque Edu Bigaon, head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines public affairs committee.

Manuel Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez considered Bin Laden's killing a double-edged sword. The problem and it was "good" that the world has one less terrorist to deal with.

"But it is bad because his loyalists will retaliate not only against soldiers and policemen but also against innocent civilians," said Iñiguez.

But Bin Laden's death will dampen the "enthusiasm" and cut off funding for extremist groups all over the world, including the Abu Sayyaf, according to Senator President Juan Ponce Enrile.

"They will lose a source of funding since Libya is in trouble also. So the death of the spiritual head of al-Qaida, unless they can develop another one, will slow down the flow rate of that movement," he told reporters.

Rep. Abdullah Dimaln, a former chief of the Armed Forces, said the government should not let its guard down as al-Qaida's affiliate organizations were still around.

"There are still the Abu Sayyaf group and the Jemaah Islamiyah. The death of Bin Laden will not completely stop terrorism because the issues is still there, whether it's jihad or Jihada investment," he said.

Enrile doubted the Abu Sayyaf's capability to mount retaliatory attacks in the country.

"They do not have the capability. I would not worry about. So far they've not kept all the way to Islamic," he said.

Retired police chief superintendent Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza said Bin Laden's death signaled a "more victory" for the global counterterrorism campaign but warned of reprisals.

Instead of being demoralized, the Abu Sayyaf and other allied extremist groups might activate their terrorist plans because it was in their nature to avenge the death of their leaders, said Mendoza, once president of Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) belittled the capability of the objectionist to stage retaliatory attacks.

"The AFP is optimistic that Osama's death would lead to the eventual demise of the link of the local terrorist group with the [regional] Jemaah Islamiyah," Lt. Gen. Jose Ludovico Cabintoy Jr., the AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr. said in a statement.

Loss of inspiration

A military spokesperson said the death of al-Qaida's leader represented a loss of inspiration to Islamic extremist groups.

Commodore Miguel Rodriguez said the Abu Sayyaf need to get funding and training support from Bin Laden's group before the Abu Sayyaf linked up with Jemaah Islamiyah.

"[Osama] gave them inspiration that as long as he is alive the terrorist movement is not defeated. But the financial support from al-Qaida to the Jemaah Islamiyah has already been severed almost zero. That's why terrorist groups in the country have lost motivation because they have no funds and no public support," Rodriguez told reporters in a briefing.

Easier to defeat

Rodriguez said the Abu Sayyaf would be easier to defeat with Bin Laden's death.

Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, chief of the Western Mindanao Command, said Bin Laden's death would affect his followers' morale.

But at the same time, the al-Qaida founder's followers will see him as a martyr, he said.

Lacierda said at a news briefing that "all relevant precautions and steps" to ensure the nation's security were being taken although the Aquino administration had not received any report indicating retaliatory actions by the Abu Sayyaf.

Those included the police remaining in full alert...its status since the elevation of Holy Week last month, he said.

Lacierda said Oban had ordered the intelligence and operations units of the AFP "to assess and monitor the security situation in Mindanao.

Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., chair of the Anti-Terrorism Council, said he had reiterated to national security agencies the importance of maintaining measures to counter terrorist threats.

"We ask the public to be alert and to report your cooperation as we continue to work to ensure the safety of our people," Ochoa said in a statement.

Chief Supt. Alan Purisima, newly installed Metro Manila police commander, said he was maintaining the full alert status of the police in the capital. With reports from TJ Burgonio, Jiji Calimayuran Jr., Jocelyn R. Ua, Cynthia D. Balloria and Mike Blanche in Manila and Julie C. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

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World hails Osama death

From page A1

Cameron said it would bring great relief to people across the world. "It is a great success that he has been found and will no longer be able to pursue his campaign of global terror," Cameron said in a statement.

He said Bin Laden was responsible for the world but let us believe he would find none.

US dollar strengthens

European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek said: "We have woken up in a more secure world."

A market perception is that the death of Bin Laden reduced the security risks facing the United States lifted the dollar from a three-year low and raised stock index futures.

US crude oil prices also fell, but analysts said any market impact would be short-lived.

Israel, a country regarded as a billet enemy by many Muslims who are also outraged by Hezbollah backing for it, was jubilant in its praise of the United States, its vital security ally.

"The state of Israel joins together in the joy of the American people after the liquidation of Bin Laden," said a statement from the premier's office.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated US President Barack Obama for his victory in justice, liberty and the dominant values of democratic nations which fought side by side against terrorism."

Good news

Dominic Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said Bin Laden's death was "good news for all men in the world" who think freely and are peaceful."

Westerwelle's Italian counterpart Franco Frattini called it "a victory of good over evil, of justice over cruelty."

But India, which has fought three wars with Pakistan, said news that Bin Laden had been killing out seems in border was worrying.

"We take note with grave concern that part of the statement in which President Obama said that the fight in which Osama bin Laden was killed took place in Pakistan," Foreign Secretary Pakistan," Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram said.

"The fact underlines our concern that terrorists belonging to different organizations find sanctuary in Pakistan," he said.

In Afghanistan, which US-led forces invaded in 2001 to root out Bin Laden and the militant Taliban, President Hamid Karzai called on the Taliban to refrain from fighting.

"The Taliban must learn a lesson from this. The Taliban should refrain from fighting," Karzai said.

Most analysts agreed that although the killing of such an inspirational figurehead would dent a blow to his followers' morale, Bin Laden had not had any significant practical role in the organization for years. Al-Qaeda works in a decentralized way so that a direct successor of Bin Laden's death would be limited.

Mustered responses

US military analyst Mark Kimmit said it was not the end of al-Qaeda and terrorism.

He said that while al-Qaida was symbolized by Bin Laden it was more than to Sunday.

In Lebanon, some downplayed the relevance of Bin Laden at a time of great turmoil in the Arab world, where events have evolved to overtake a figure whose death helped unleash two wars and greatly deepened American intervention in the Middle East.

"This man hasn't shown his face, or made any statements a long time despite the important developments that can regain a relationship right now," said Talal Atrissi, a professor of political at the Lebanese University.

Atrissi said Bin Laden was a polarizing figure, dividing supporters who saw him as an symbol of opposition to the West, or a person between Persia and East, and others who saw his deadly acts as spectacles harming Islam.

"The division over him that we saw when he was alive will prevail after his death, though the fact the United States killed him could make some extremists angry," he said.

The arms fatality emerged in Cairo, capital of the most populous Arab nation.

Egyptians reading the website of the newspaper Seventh Day responded to the killing with mixed emotions. "I do not know if you are a fugitive in the name of God or if you are a terrorist who killed many Muslims," one reader wrote.

A few called Bin Laden a martyr. "You lived a lion and died a lion," one wrote.

Ismail Haniya, head of the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip, said: "We condemn any killing of a holy martyr or of a Muslim and Arab regardless of his ideology because his enemy upon him."

But in the West Bank, Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad said Bin Laden's death would end a "dark era."

While their leaders were proclaiming that the world had become safer, many countries prepared their citizens for the worst.

Australian Prime Minister John Gillard said the arrest was "welcome," but cautioned: "Al-Qaida is not finished. The war against terrorism must continue."

Singapore, which sits in a region where the al-Qaida-inspired Jemaah Islamiyah has carried out fatal attacks, also cautioned that Bin Laden's demise did not mean the world was safe.

"This is a significant milestone ... but terrorism and the ideologies that perpetuate it, pose complex challenges. To deal with it will require continued vigilance," The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. Reports from AFP, Reuters and New York Times News Service

GROUND ZERO People gather to celebrate the death of Osama bin Laden at the construction site at Ground Zero in New York early Monday. REUTERS

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OPINION

Accountability

EDITORIAL

BY RESIGNING, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez has spared the nation the agony of a protracted, consuming and expensive impeachment trial that threatened to further divide the nation and rake up old wounds that might be just healing, a canker that could explode. But as a member of the bar, she should understand that her act does not fully satisfy the requirements of justice. She might have saved herself from conviction in an impeachment trial, but she should realize that it does not spare her from prosecution. The demands for accountability should be satisfied even after she has resigned.

Gutierrez herself has reaffirmed her allegiance to "the Constitution and the Filipino people." The same Charter requires accountability from all public officials. To be sure, considering the nature of the work of the ombudsman, the requirements may be tougher. The ombudsman is the principal anti-graft prosecutor; she's the anti-corruption champion and chief good-government warrior. It's a commission that's constitutionally ordained.

But it's also in the nature of the constitution that Gutierrez as ombudsman suffered so much criticism. Because she was appointed by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Gutierrez has been perceived as protective of the former president and her key officials. Several charges of corruption and malfeasance have been filed against the former administration and its officials, but they seemed to have stalled inside in the ombudsman's desk. The sense that broke the camel's back appears to be the plea bargain that Gutierrez supposedly struck with former military comptroller Carlos Garcia. Now that plea bargain may be rejected by whomever is appointed as ombudsman.

The nature of the commission is such that the ombudsman would have to contend with changes in the administration. Although Gutierrez was supposed to be ombudsman till next year, the election of a new administration meant that she had to deal with a new set of political horses that might complement or cripple her work. Considering that the new administration rode on the crest of a popular outpouring against the depredations of the past, a clash between the ombudsman and the new regime was unavoidable.

Gutierrez had to confront the reality of politics. Although independent, the ombudsman is not shielded from politics. Gutierrez knows that. She had sought to prove the prerogatives and independence of her office legally and constitutionally. But when the Supreme Court gave the go-signal for the House of Representatives to start the impeachment process, she realized it would be a lost cause to continue with her defense and soldier on since, although impeachment is also a constitutional process, it is chief and foremost, a political process.

There have been speculations on the real reasons for her resignation. Most revolved around politics. But of course, there are political reasons in her decision to quit. Suffice it to say that Gutierrez knew that she was playing a game of "brinkmanship" as Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo put it, one where she had "no chance according to the music." Brinkmanship also means that she must confront the reality that she may still be prosecuted and has to face her accusers even after her resignation.

Gutierrez also knows that all rules pertaining to her acts of commission or omission as ombudsman will have to be filed with the Department of Justice. She still have her day in court.

Her spokesman, lawyer Tomas Syquia, said that if rules would be filed, she would have those as a "private citizen." In fact, when she announced her resignation, Gutierrez said she would not like to be perceived to be using the influence of her office to protect herself. She said she would like to spare the nation the agony and expense of a protracted fight. "I wanted to face my accusers whatever the personal agony it would have involved," she said. "But the interests of my family, my office, and more importantly, the nation, must always come before any personal considerations."

In the final analysis, the constitutional process acquitted itself well in this episode. All the protagonists played their parts well, and it has been instructive for the public to witness the give-and-take of the actors in the wider drama of pressing for good governance. But theater should give way to resolute reality and the pressing need for public accountability.

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Going into the night

VIEWPOINT

Jaime L. Miranda

"SOLVE ERMVE in this place not long, and there is no health in you. In the name of God, go."

It was not President Aquino who dished that bark at Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez other than stinging order, Henry Cromwell sent England's "Barebone" Parliament packing in 1653.

Gutierrez didn't hurry to discover if an impeachment court would share her wish in a Cromwellian version of "Scram!" Cromwell's boot. The lady fumed yesterday's tirades of the forsaking defiance. In a hastily scribbled three-page meeting Friday, she informed the House drive that she would go, as major cities from pre-to Dylan Thomas, "gentle into that good night."

As Prior searched, Gutierrez signed her quit letter. "I am resigning the office effective this day," she hazy sentence read. The text to Malacañan almost mattered interest. "Even as a private citizen, I will still support efforts of government in managing our corruption."

Good Friday's morning. "Gutierrez refused to go quietly into the night," Viewpoint noted in "High or so, says." Discretion. A 2011/11 "If presidents or ombudsmen cannot be virtuous, then the threat of impeachment should, at least, make them nervous."

Indeed, there was much at fidget about. Aside from a steep drop in corruption cases, "performance and must seem undermined to the ombudsman's action—of inaction—on high-profile cases," the Philippine Human Rights Commission Report noted.

Unburdened, Gutierrez handed the Commission on Elections' 82 Million purchase of automated election counting machines from Mega Pacific's former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez's $1-million website case, Jocelyn Bolante's P728-million fertilizer fund cases and the $328 and $329 WMA [?] Transaction deal.

And to put the "torn generals scam" and murder of Ilonggo Philip Pernito brutally marked by the 2D Commission on Human Rights. Political interests of three President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her consort Mike Arroyo were involved in those cases.

"The ombudsman's duty is performance and credibility limited from the undoing of the very reforms [mentioned by Ombudsman Hamlet Bautista] that previously strengthened the organization," the PCIJ adds.

Yet, few hailed how jittery Gutierrez had become. Why?

Her spokesperson washed the trembling of Gutierrez's bailiwarks. In did the strident defense of Gutierrez's OMA persecution. Her fellow commissioners Simeon Marcelo, Asteria Salamanca and Abbo Asis swinging by with grace and other persons was harsh basis. Bishop Rey Siet Tupas Jr. described the Ignacio as Crisis as one can't order.

"Never and brothers act as four which point of the compass the wind comes," the old proverb says. Gutierrez's newspaper column "The Executive" provided subtle signals. There were overlooked.

"There is much darkness for me now, despite the brave front I conserve," she wrote a few days before hailing out. "Resignation is supposedly the lowest of low options available to me today." And she lowered now "the shame of being found guilty of misfeasance to have been forcibly removed from office."

Her can sympathize with this personal anguish. In this event, Gutierrez vowed in the least battle a week before senators, that to forgive is indeed, nope on off. To quit further, were to begin hearings on the heroism of impeachment. Those were summarized earlier by a hopeful 20 house vote of 21 2 to 46.

An overwhelming vote unknown as a "few, sure" to well impeachment." Former Sen. Rene Saguisag wrote in the last Bells Lost and Found for decades back. This makes "tried and convictions superfluous."

An ombudsman can lose moral authority "to be credible, acceptable, legit and effective," he stressed in this 20-page vote. "Resignation may be the just-in option."

Gutierrez has been subpoenaed as "trial by publicity over the past year," former President Aquino insisted. "We respect her decision to resign."

Lode beyond the rhetorical hand-wringing, former Special Prosecutor Senator Villa-Ignacio suggested. Evidence as to impeachments would have been exposed Gutierrez as former President Arroyo's encourage. "Impeachment is a strategic move of survival on the part of OMA." The former premiere bought time. She refuses to go into the night, just yet.

Scanning of the chief reportedly denies to different sources in ombudsman insulted on impeachment in part to finish media coverage. Reportage on the aborted impeachments impeachment "gave the public a gripping education in democracy." Impeach's Crusade in Quirino means. Prior says, fail to express the sense of early harmonies.

At the behest of Arroyo Duterte's wrath, only 1 persons crossed the Office of the Ombudsman. This meant as 20 persons, following reforms instituted by Simeon Marcelo. (Reverse instance of Sr Ged Pecson correspondent dream, for Gutierrez's departure from Manolo's Building of now COA Commissioner Heidi Mendoza.)

Under Gutierrez, that trust being plummeted as 6 persons in 2005. It has probably crashed through the floor, since he assisted of Armed Forces corruption plus bargains and Philippine Revolution 1896 on impeachment. Gutierrez rests from a gained institution.

We were had voice by flawed ombudsmen. The harmed nation might never afford a third some up.

The President ought to invite the broadest participation of civil society and religious groups in picking the new ombudsman. And whoever is chosen must, as a first task, bring closure to all those pickled cases—even if the trail results, as many fear, in Gloria Macapagal Arroyo being guest in the night.

(Email: *jaimelmiranda@gmail.com*)

Can you handle the truth?

THERE'S THE RUB

Commodo ale Ocampo

LEGALLY OF course, as GOA Chair Grace Tan points out, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyoand disciplinary powers to condemn funds. That was to relieve me to the filing of graft charges against the former twin president by Frank Chavez, specifically violating DBM's memo for the transfer to branches of revenue collectors in Philhealth.

"The act of transferring funds per se, to is self, is not an offense." Which is the basis of Chavez's case, that the DBM's former was a "trust fund." Is "Malversation of government" however are question matters entirely.

The "assistance circumstances" was GMA use of that money under PCSO, 18 million, for electoral purposes. As per any Mahirangly by Comelec Chairman Jose Melo's Philippine Commission Corp. Francisco Duque. "The proposed transfer will have a significant bearing on the 2004 elections." Duque went on to plunder Philhealth assets bearing GMA's picture as campaign posts. Alternatively, DBM's Avelino Cruz Jr. testified that the position of health secretary after GMA was declared president in the middle of the night, with only that mistake to oblige their assent.

Well, maybe Chavez should have lumped on the case of the fund farmed of by state detainee, but didn't know that then and withdrawn legal titles. More to the point, that GMA had plenary powers to transfer funds in her only taken more questions than puts them to rest. Clearly there is how she managed to win re-election in 2004 in the close contention that she did.

It wasn't just that the fund treated not to, it was also this: GMA hadn't served the time necessary to complete the presidential term and so was automatically allowed to run for the position. But to run as president while being president was to violate the constitutional ban on the president using only one term. The ban was there precisely to prevent a situation where the incumbent would misuse the resources to secure a second term. The solution proffered by the other candidates (Boots Anson Roy Elter) is just to let it before the Supreme Court on behalf of PCIJ was for GMA to take a leave of absence and turn the reins of government over to the vice president while she runs for reelection. It solved the dilemma, satisfying the Constitution on both counts.

The Supreme Court struck that down. The result was that more consolation election seven to take place in the Philippines. GMA did not even have "forced" avail using "Garci" funds to buy electoral paraphernalia or distorting fertilizer money to buy the congressmen, she insisted when all that failed to "bribing" Garci to make her win by a millionvote over PGJ.

All of which goes to show that even can't be legislation when dealing with these problems. This strength, the president has plenary powers to transfer funds, but the question is, should GMA have been the president while she was the president? The Supreme Court itself has struck its answer for here.

Danilo Suarez and the usual suspects in the GMA camp of course now use it's Malacañang chart's behind Chavez. It's the product of "too in cahoots issue" by P-Noy to go after GMA. Bull. If an—after every complaint to date P-Noy hasn't filtered enough, within or otherwise, there—what of it? Above time someone brought the fight where it belongs. Also and then Castaneda is just the finger pointing at the source, in case a Lim "complaint" again, she is not the source. Or, for those who do not like metaphors, she merely contained the role of enthusiasts, which was to state a blind eye and deaf ear to Ebdis misuse, tax GMA committed the sin of commission, she attended the president.

At the very least, it's time someone showed up the GMA camp which has been swallowed in searching the new government for not doing enough for the 99% in the war with middle finer assertion. Or for not punching money like usually in theirs to aid them in their plight. It's time government or in the parties said "At least we're trying. What did you do?" We stole their money, you do it.

But more than this, all this anxiety shows again how government is doing itself and the public a disservice by limiting to concepts of corruption to graft or plunder. Or by trying to pin down GMA or limiting a crime, how crimes go beyond that. She far beyond that.

The thorny issues involved in her use of the GMAN funds, a trust fund, for electoral purposes already suggests that. Not here to go past graft or corruption but full dimensions of the crime which we see as all cases, which was to steal the vote, which was to acknowledge many.

I myself will continue to push for the revival of the Truth Commission. The reason it was rejected by the majority of the House of Representatives was that government itself could not appreciate its true nature or nature. It saw it merely as another anti-graft body, a substitute for the Office of the Ombudsman headed by Gutierrez who could not be removed other than by impeachment. Other factors and others were right there to criticize it as a duplication and a redundancy. It was, if that was all the Truth Commission was, then it deserved to be scrapped.

But that is not what it is. That is not what it is supposed to do. It is not there to investigate the 8billion scam, the Ampil Pacific scam, the 1Billion scam, it is there to investigate the truth of the vote, which includes all the "attendant circumstances" of the 2004 elections. It is there to investigate the theft of Garci, which is the whole reason for the theft of the vote, which includes all the "attendant circumstances" of the 2004 elections. It is there to investigate the theft of Garci, which is the whole reason for the theft of the vote, which is the only GMA personnel all the institutions of this country has seen.

Let some of her other crimes pass for now (but only). The point is not to ask GMA, "Can you escape guilt?" The point is to tell her:

"Can you handle the truth?"

Reducing poverty: A conceptual approach

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

MONDAY'S SUBJECT matter, fundamental challenge, arguably for government, at the face (but poverty in the Philippines has not improved, even as our neighbors have made great strides in reducing it in the past two decades. Interestingly, Philippine poverty even worsened in the first few years of the decade; both in government's official poverty statistics and data from outside governments, such as in the Social Weather Stations' (SWS) well-used poverty surveys. We are in the strong minority of countries that have failed to bring down and to rising incidence of malnutrition and certain diseases in the majority of the country's provinces in recent years. It is also manifested in forced incidence of hunger in recent periods, in particular the 1995, 2003 and this-which the most only saw record growth—growth that has obviously benefited not the Filipinos.

Most of us understand that poverty is much more than one's lack of income. Poverty has several dimensions, and while the income one is the most widely understood, is not the whole story. People can also be socially poor, environmentally poor, politically poor, culturally poor, or spiritually poor. Setting those aside, even just the economic dimension, we can easily identify the deprivations. To enumerate, poverty is caused by lack of endowments, that is, lack of access to the forms of capital: financial, human, natural, physical and social.

Lack of financial capital, or simply money (or assets) is most familiar to all. Also well understood is human capital, primarily in the form of health and education, which are essential to a person's ability to earn income. Natural capital refers to the gifts of nature on which most people's income-generating activities are based: land, marine and fresh water resources, minerals, forests and climate. Physical capital is the built environment that eases economic activities and life in general, infrastructure like roads, bridges, ports, power and water. And social capital pertains to the human relationships that facilitate transactions of various kinds, chemical or organic for others, home people often and suitable farm machines likewise fulfill the same function. This may also be pursued through institutional interventions and market reforms to improve their prices. These include lowering barriers to trade, effective governing of farm products, (ensuring the National Food Authority's monopoly on rice importation, and measures to strengthen the various community value chains that link production to final consumption. Also (reducing) on the good are many well-meaning measures that subsidize prices (i.e., reduce influence), foreign exchange rates and interest rates.

Forward looking measures characterize the third mode, of stretching and/or protecting endowments over the medium term. Examples of investments for ancient measures such as forest and watershed protection and natural resources management seek to enhance and preserve the natural capital. So do climate change adaptation measures, now a prominent concern in all of the country's development plans, which would protect both natural and physical capital. The controversial conditional cash transfer (CCT) program imbues the poor to invest in their human capital by rewarding them for keeping children in school and bringing them to health centers, among other things. Population management and disaster contingency efforts similarly promote the same goal.

There can be many and worse, then, to the whole array of poverty reduction efforts coordinated by various instrumentalities of government, and by private sector and non-government organizations. Perhaps what we have failed in is recognizing how all of these meaning efforts relate to each other and how, if done right, they could actually synergize and complement one another (2T). An example, can be seen in current social and social capital as well. The answer was do that, the answer (perhaps we could begin to see tangible progress in the Philippine poverty.

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OMG, OMG!

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

reprieve drive. It was the ombudsman, after all, who had ignored or moved with glacial speed on many sources of corruption lodged against Arroyo officials. If not the ombudsman, then who? But someone here had to be opposition worked to prepare cases against erring officials, no matter even if a Senate committee (on its behalf) found none and the SOS (1T) dead among others) could not be found (at the time). Someone somewhere should recommend that the filing of cases against perpetrators, the ombudsman took her own sweet time "studying" the evidence. In the case of the GMA pardon drive, she dared it found scrumptious, has refused to let her anybody. And when one case, that against former AFP comptroller Carlos Garcia, reached as far as the Sandiganbayan, Gutierrez proved that she was willing to prosecute, and convicted, an action meriting another investigation.

It must be a relief to Malacañang, then, to see the back of Gutierrez, leaving it free to appoint a new ombudsman who will be more "sensitive" to such concerns as due process and presumption against guilt-ity, and pin to start-on-injustice express hard-to-reach.

* * *

BIT Director's departure also paves a challenge to Friday for no longer has any excuses. There is no longer an ombudsman to blame should an inquiry continue to plague the administration and wrong stories thrive despite the President's decrees.

The Palace spokesman for the past few days has shown upwards, but sounds energized and saying that against malefactors. I find person sorry for the person who will be named DBM's successor, given the insane expectations and the watchful eyes of critics who will surely look for the slightest weak-

"How do you remember a year to the 1st?... Because it is true."
—Rasul

IT WAS (one second Monday morning, the hustle and bustle of parents, papers and classes absences that needed to be sent, spelled out—a busy, busy time kind of Monday. In fact, you would have missed it if you were too busy rushing or going about your business. (And indeed, most people did.) There was no fanfare

YOUNG BLOOD

Rasul Fellpe, M.D.

after all, no parade or entourage—it flowers, gifts or sweets. And, and yet there we were in the middle of it all, a bustle of motion simply gathering for the commencement of a man (up standing here story was created first the charm flowing about

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? Be welcome contributions from the twenty-somethings and below.—Ed.

the place, a contagious energy imbuing a group eager with anticipation yet hushed by the earnestness of what was happening.

Lola had been diagnosed with stage 4 (metastasized) cancer in (mind (literally), and doctors had given her only months to live. The mass had grown beyond normal proportions (the size of a fist) and it is only a matter of time before the tumor's pressure on her pregnant was beyond awful. She was unable to move anymore, crippled and bedridden by a sickness that not only drains one physically but mentally and emotionally as well. She had become dependent and mostly relying on Lola for every needs everything , including going to the bathroom.

Throughout all this, I never heard Lola complain. Not once. And for never left her side. In six months that I had been staying in (personal residence, I never saw a more sustained bravery—running around like a headless chicken, trying to cope with whatever needs we (plus, "Lola, pabi lolo! pagtimpla dapo sa lalawmayo ko. Lola, kailangan po natin bumili ng gamot. Lola, dalhin ngo na pa-yan si Lola."

It didn't matter how demanding the task or how intimidating the Philippine General Hospital can get (I actually still get knots in my stomach just thinking about it), Lola never failed to deliver. I didn't know how she managed to make ends meet for every time we needed something, it was Lola who supplied it.

So there we were in (ward 1), quintessential in our environs, trying to contain our song. The other patients paid no attention to us. But then, they were probably too preoccupied to attend. And the other doctors didn't mind us too, being out there doing what was important for them. The nurses were apathetic in a way, a coldness like the (DOT need attending when you are too busy doing your job and what not. But those of us who knew, those of us who thought that we couldn't let the event go unmentioned, we let (ourbe's know we still were (here).

And so on Sept. 13, 2010 at 10 o'clock in the morning, Lola said Lola got married after spending nearly 50 years together. They had spent every waking hour together—literally in sickness and in health, through thick and thin, and (even) when we couldn't (see) each other, by dying wish.

It is a world that values romantic and (dark) scenario and passion and accomplishment. Lola had nothing to offer. She was beyond poor, had no material to brag about, and eventually had no (power) to speak of. She was old, frail, and mostly bedridden and with (the same) last few months in. The edge of her eyes were crusted with (her tears and spittle) and her laugh penetrated (through you, making you wish that you could smile like she did and laugh like she did—with sincerity and sincerity. Her bald head, long battered by bouts of chemotherapy, was always covered with a bonnet (she once (you had asked her why she wore it, she said that it kept her (cool) along the edge, which never failed to make me smile because she (was aware of my love memories aware of (lingerie).

Lola was so unassuming and normal as Lola. She was a homebody. She dark skin had been baked by the sun, his hands (were) from working over all day in the fields. I no longer framed by vast mountain boundaries they could barely afford one meal a day now. When I looked at Lola I was always reminded that what I was doing was nothing compared to what she did.

In spite of all that had done—or rather all that had not done—in my thoughts (or what I had known of) along her dress to disregard that life is was about remembering or even relearning what is important, but about forgetting what is not.

I believe that deep in our hearts we already know what is important. We were created with that truth and bound to us. We were created to be remembered by a world that pursues what we were meant to remember, we have replaced what is important with what is less.

We need to develop the habit, we need to develop the skill of forgetting. We need to because every waking day is a reminder that we have what is valuable and what is not. We already know what matters, but are tired to forget what doesn't.

In the twilight of her life, as the years are and this end of her journey neared, Lola had already forgotten what was unimportant. After 88 years worth of living and working and suffering and loving, she knew what was important. In the end, many () have words, passionate years, careers but decades—but relationships are forever.

Rasul Felipe, M.D., 25, is a graduating medical student at UPMSB.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in (or if employed, the occupation you're holding and the company you work with). Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Defying tradition

"If Sam (Middleton) is my program in the (one nine) memories, she will be defying 200 years of royal tradition."
—Andrea Brillantes, (choreographer of Prince William's (one another 40) wife, on the (newlyweds)

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Obama on Osama: What he didn't say

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

IT DIDN'T seem possible, even as recently as only the other day, that there will ever be an assumption that anyone could be more offended by Osama bin Laden than Barack Obama (just before noon, Manila time) that a special US military operation led (the) al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden in a firefight in Abbottabad, Pakistan, was electric and unambiguous good news. Even Pakistani Prime Minister (unclear) at some US claims. The wars on terrorism will never be so uncomplicated, at least in public perception, as World War II (the "Good War" in those who fought it in retrospect, other than (their own). But for a couple of hours, the legacy of Terrorism had some of its ambiguities, and painful (events of the day in front of the White House had resulted in thousands of Americans (across the country) headed home) marched.

The (unlikely) president of the United States might be (all emotive), some time before Obama made the official announcements, to the world. Obama would use its breaking the news, they would help define public reaction. I imagine (some of the speech-(ers), and decided (not only) on occasion as it was (released by the White House online. Reports from CNN, among other sources, revealed that Obama had done some or most of the writing. It might be useful to consider the audiences Obama addressed, instead of the (one) he was (addressing) personally.

In general, the announcement that will help define Obama's presidency for all time was geared to two audiences. In (ten, acknowledging down-(ward) audiences was how he started. "Tonight, I can report to the Americans people and to the world" that US forces had killed Osama.

But within this (one-to-one) (community-(formation) site addressing a specific audience: "... we must also affirm (that the United States is not—and never will be—at war with Islam." Now came the line which jumped out at me during the first (viewing): "Bin Laden was not (effective) leader, he was a (murderer) of innocent men, women and children, and his death is true (justice) for (many) of the victims we've (lost) and the families who love them."

Then (came) the (one) that (made) me (sit) (up) (and) (take) (notice): "And (it) (is) (important) (to) (note) (that) (we) (take) (this) (action) (not) (as) (a) (nation) (at) (war) (with) (Islam)." (Parentheses) (mine.)

Why (is) (it) (important) (to) (note) (that)? Because (it) (is) (not) (the) (case) (that) (the) (US) (is) (at) (war) (with) (Islam).

The slaughter of trees

LETTERS

THIS IS in reaction to the letter on the plan to cut age-old acacia and narra trees to widen the road from Brgy. centro to Calzada (Sunday, 2/23/11)

Some years back, my Manila-based Cebu Thai wife's classmates and I rallied to save heritage homes in Lahug, where unrelated endeavor was demolished by a road-widening plan. Together with other like-minded citizens, we successfully sought the help of media and pressured Cebu officials to save those heritage sites.

Now some short-sighted regional authorities are asking an almost silent and majestic sentinels of God's creation. If anyone of you has had the care-giving of ill-fitting through a cool green canopy of age-old trees, you must have experienced a heavenly refreshing and rejuvenating feeling.

Why do we have so many natural and historical treasures is not so-called "pitch in progress"? Cutting those trees rather is our national trait and infective very generations of a heritage.

While the last of the Civilized world has taken drastic measures to save its scenic sights across their heritage, we insist on destroying Mother Earth and our posterity. We have already witnessed countless times the senseless power of Mother Nature when she punishes mankind for its sins.

Progress can and does co-exist with our environment and our heritage. We must maintain a reverence for what came before us. If looking for alternative roads requires more brain work and expense, think how much more is right and useful in time and money it is to grow trees a single tree for 100 years!

Progress—as in widening the road to accommodate more polluting vehicles...does not entertain in any way the slaughter of harmonious and giving trees that are powerless to help themselves. Public officials admit there are viable alternative routes between Brgy. and Carcar. If the word "long-term" here fits for greater and future generations are taken into account, any of these alternative roads, provided it is untainted by corruption, would come up much cheaper.

Ventura, which has rebuilt from the rubble left by earthquakes the value of its natural heritage. Age-old trees situated in that town, my kind or kin in one of its cities, simply live long and could not last in towns are numbered and mentioned, but not our heritage trees of historical.

The trees suggest the cutting of such trees in this day and age is unthinkable. It cost economy to Presidents legendary. Appropriate Greening Program, which encourages children to plant trees for the future.

The trees in Cebu may still be saved because of public uproar. But we hope that when the noise shall have died down, our public officials will remain true to their word that no trees and heritage houses shall be sacrificed once again in any part of the country in the name of progress.

—FERDIE DE VEYRA-BONTILLA, mesinarbat@yahoo.com

BASILAN bound soldiers, in 2007, prepare to board waiting aircraft

Insurgency is senseless war between brothers

THIS IS in reaction to news items about skirmishes between government forces and elements of the New People's Army (NPA) or Muslim separatists in the Visayas, to whom the senseless sexual, diversity-related groups.

The insurgency has been going on for over 42 years now with no real struggle. Leaders side wants to admit it is losing, while every side claims victory. The fact is, it's the struggle, there can be no winners, only losers.

What caught this attention was the statement of Lt. Col. Lyndon Batista, spokesman of the Philippine Army's 10th Infantry Division in Davao City, who lectured on the duties of the rebels that they have killed about 20 soldiers and government combatants in encounters in Compostela Valley, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental from March 9-16 this year. ("Government negotiator, PO commissioner on the brink of resolution," Sunstar, 3/19/11)

Besides such several rebels were killed while only one soldier died. "We don't know about the number of casualties because we don't want to treat them (NPA) as enemies," he added. That is an acceptance of the fact that we are Filipinos, brothers all, not enemies to be enemies. It is sad and lamentable that we are up in arms against one another just because we engage in the exercise of our different religious beliefs and ideologies. We can settle such differences through dialogue, with the prerequisite acceptance and understanding of the things that divide us, if we cannot agree to be united by a common belief or persuasion.

Those rebels in the mountains have families of their own in the lowlands, cities and villages that need them, as are the soldiers (who only follow their superiors' orders to go after them).

These fighters from both sides are precisely men's brains in the war between the generals, and communist supreme who is really in safe headquarters or comfortable command posts in foreign lands.

The insurgency has been the cause of numerous bloodletting. How could the rebels in their conscience kill unarming soldiers who are merely sons of poor parents and are in the armed forces because they like it or have no other job to find? Or is it easy for soldiers to kill civilians or remote areas just because they could not afford to fight well-done when they get the chance?

The fraternal war has got to stop. With no rebellion, soldiers won't be going after anyone. They would just be in the barracks and camps, getting ready in case of foreign attacks against which they are supposed to be the first plant, and civilian fighters can go about living a normal life with their families, and do their duties as peaceful and law-abiding citizens.

The land should not be sprinkled with the blood of opposing brothers, which would only increase hatred of fighting each other.

We are mere islanders, but we hand will may for generations, for our children to whom we earnestly do not want to bequeath the bitterness that we have never experienced.

—ANDRÉS BAYSA, gumanggang@aol.com

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Stopping illegal gambling is not PCSO's job

THIS REFERS to the news article "Pangasinan gambling hamtigensal" (Sunstar, 3/20/11), specifically paragraphs 8 and 9, where it was stated that the National Bureau of Investigation "had conducted the anti-jueteng raids on the requests of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)..." and that "the PCSO had made the request based on the growing opinion's offices on the revenues of authorized Small Town Lottery (STL, now Lotteria ng Bayan) operations...," respectively.

May we clarify that we have not requested our anti-jueteng raids in the province of Pangasinan for it is not within the ambit or scope of influence of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Fundamentally, our office is to concur on improving the quality of life of the Filipino people by raising and providing funds for health programs, medical assistance and services, and charities.

Hence, we state clearly that the PCSO has no Small Town Lotteries in Pangasinan.

If there is illegal gambling in Pangasinan, the problem is, as we all know, the responsibility of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police.

—MARGARITA B. JUSEP, chair, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, PSC, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

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GSIS explains employee compensation benefits

THIS IS in response to the letters of Elma Calingacion and Susan Atanacio-rombo-bano (Sunstar, 4/11/11) regarding the grant of Employees Compensation (EC) benefits administered by the Government Service Insurance System.

As a background, EC or disability benefits refer to a contingent package given to public and private sector employees and their dependents in the event of the former suffering work-related injury, sickness, disability or death. The benefits include cash income for disability or death, funeral and medical services for injury or sickness, and rehabilitation services (in addition to monthly cash income benefit) for permanent disability.

For the information of our EC pensioners and their beneficiaries, the GSIS implemented a pilot distribution of EC benefits' payments under Board Resolution No. 306, beginning in 2002 as the three were already digitized at that time. The schedule in the prioritization of payments excluded the payment for medical reimbursements for services, which is why the benefit of Calingacion was disconcerted.

As to the appeal of Atanacio-bano to reinstate her member's survivorship pension, we would like to advise her that her member is an EC survivorship pensioner. Unlike the regular survivorship pension which continues through the life of the pensioner, EC pension is only guaranteed for a period of five years, under Article 32(c) of the Employees' Compensation and State Insurance Fund (PD 626).

We would like to inform our EC pensioners and beneficiaries that the GSIS' governing board and management are undertaking a review the program's benefits in relation to the current state of the fund and will inform them of any amendments to the program as soon as this is completed. We have undertaken a study on the concerns of Calingacion and Atanacio-bano.

To be assured, EC pensioners and beneficiaries are enrolled with senior vice president (Manila Division) Jr. at Tel. Nos. 859-0237 and 970-4625 and e-mail address dedlan@gsis.gov.ph, should they have any inquiry on the program.

—ROBERTO V. VERGARA, president and general manager, Government Service Insurance System, Financial Center, Pasay City

PCGG 'incompetence' was during GMA's term

I WRITE to highlight certain facts relevant to Rigoberto Tiglao's April 25 column ("Biggest 'what if' in century?") in connection with the 20 percent E&C shares involving Edsamler Corporation Inc. specifically on Tiglao's claim that this is the biggest case of government bungle process and that the government lost P90 billion because the (Cory) Aquino-era PCGG and its lawyers were inspector incompetent.

The current chairman and commissioner of the Presidential Commission on Good Governance (PCGG) should like to emphasize the fact that all the major hurdles in the subject case—the filing of the Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on July 11, 2000, the denial of that motion on Dec. 10, 2001 and the dismissal of the subject case for failure to present pertinent evidence on Nov. 28, 2007—all happened during the tenure of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Thus, Tiglao's complaints against the government and prosecutors' supposed incompetence is misplaced. In hindsight the handling of this complex jury case should be addressed to President Arroyo, who, as chief executive, had full control over the PCGG and the Office of the Solicitor General, and had the best opportunity if she had been so minded, to address the alleged omissions, matters, incompetence and transgressions Tiglao described to be extant.

—JOSE S. SUAREZ, chief information officer, Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG)

Ground Zero is center of celebration

NEW YORK—Crowds jammed around Ground Zero early Monday to celebrate Osama bin Laden's death, as residents of the city where he's been the worst scare of the days, 13 attacks said they could now begin to heal.

The mood, of mostly young people, their fathers and mothers, erupted in jubilation, many chanting "Obama got Osama."

"Justice has been done," US President Barack Obama said in a dramatic late-night appearance in the East Room of the White House on Sunday.

"For over two decades, Bin Laden has been al-Qaeda's leader and symbol," the president said in a statement carried on television around the world.

"The death of Bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's efforts to defeat al-Qaida. But his death does not mark the end of our effort," Mr. Obama said. "There will be no safe haven for them."

Bin Laden was killed in an operation led by the United States, President Barack Obama said Sunday. A small team of American operatives carried out the attack and took custody of Bin Laden's remains, Obama said.

Bin Laden's al-Qaida organization has also been blamed for the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in Africa that killed 221 people and the 2000 attack on the USS Cole that killed 17 American sailors in Yemen, as well as countless other plots, some successful and some failed.

Inspiration for terrorists

Perhaps no significant was his ability—even from hiding—to inspire a new generation of terrorists to murder in his name. Most of al-Qaida's top lieutenants have been killed or captured in the years since Sept. 11, 2001, and intelligence officials in Europe and Asia say they now see a greater threat from homegrown radical groups energized by Bin Laden's example.

Bin Laden was born to family in Arabia in 1954. He became known as the most prone of the sons among his wealthy father's 54 children. Bin Laden's path to militant Islam began as a teenager in the 1970s when he got caught up in the fundamentalist movement then sweeping Saudi Arabia. He was a worrisome student of Islamic literature and listened to weekly sermons in the holy city of Mecca.

Then, Soviet troops swept into Afghanistan, Bin Laden joined the fighters' war against invading Soviet troops in the 1980s and gained a reputation as a courageous and resourceful commander. Access to his family's considerable construction fortune certainly helped raise his profile among the resolute Afghan fighters.

War against Soviets

At the time, Bin Laden's interests converged with those of the United States, which backed the "holy war" against Soviet occupation with money and arms.

When Bin Laden returned home to Saudi Arabia, he was shunned with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and was in demand as a speaker in mosques and homes. It did not take long for his stature to diverge from those of his former Western supporters.

"When we buy American goods, we are accomplices in the murder of Palestinians," he said in one of the sermons made of his speeches from those days.

A seminal moment in Bin Laden's life came in 1990, when US troops landed on Saudi soil to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

Bin Laden tried to dissuade the government from allowing non-Muslim armies into the country, where the prophet Mohammad gave birth to Islam, but the Saudi leadership turned to the United States to protect its vast oil reserves. When Bin Laden continued criticizing Riyadh's close alliance with Washington, he was stripped of all family citizenship.

"I saw radical changes in his personality as he changed from a calm, peaceful and gentle man interested in helping Muslims into a person who believed that he would be killed by unjust and continued an army to liberate Kuwait. It revealed his arrogance and his haughtiness," Prince Turki, the former Saudi intelligence chief, said in an interview with Arab news and BBC television in late 2001.

His behavior at that time left an impression that he would become what he has become," the prince added.

Knack for staying alive

The prince, who said he met Bin Laden several times years ago in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, described him as "a gentle, enthusiastic young man of few words who didn't raise his voice while talking."

Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of Al-Quds al-Arabi, a London-based newspaper, spent 16 days with Bin Laden in an Afghan cave in 1996. He said Bin Laden "is the most wanted man" on the government of millions in the Arab world" when he presented himself as the alternative to Arab regimes that have been incapable of liberating Arab land from Israeli occupation and restoring pride to their people.

He said Bin Laden and the his lowers never feared death.

"These guys spoke about death the way young men talk about going to the disco," Atwan said. "They envied those who fell in battle because they died as martyrs in God's cause."

Still, Bin Laden had a knack his staying alive.

After being kicked out of Saudi Arabia, Bin Laden sought refuge in Sudan. The African country provided him a CIA escape and offered to turn Bin Laden over to Saudi Arabia in 1996, but his native country declined, afraid a trial would destabilize the country.

No. 1 US enemy

Back on familiar terrain in Afghanistan—allowed in by the government of Burhanuddin Rabbani—Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network prepared for the holy war that turned him into Washington's No. 1 enemy.

When the Taliban—who would eventually give him refuge—first took control of Kabul in September 1996, Bin Laden and his Arab followers kept a low profile, moreover of their welcome under the new regime. The Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar called Bin Laden a "guest." Kandahar bore his headquarters in Forces Area and eventually through large and continued financial contributions to the isolated Taliban, Bin Laden became dependent on the religious militia for his survival.

In Afghanistan, he would wake before dawn for prayers, then eat a simple breakfast of cheese and bread. Six closely monitored world affairs. Almost daily, he and his lieutenants—Egyptians, Yemenis, Saudis, Syrians and others—practiced attacks, loading explosives at targets and shooting at imaginary enemies.

He also went horseback riding, his favorite hobby, and enjoyed playing traditional healer, often prescribing honey, his favorite food, and black seed, to treat colds and other illnesses. In Afghanistan, Bin Laden was often accompanied by his four wives—his two youngest from Islam allows. Militants on the member of his children range up to 11.

First major strike

Al-Qaida's first major strike after Bin Laden returned to Afghanistan was on Aug. 7, 1998, when Islamic explosives rocked US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Most of the victims were African passers-by, but the bombings also killed 12 Americans.

Two years later, Bin Laden escaped a cruise missile strike on one of his training camps in Afghanistan launched by the United States in retaliation. Bin Laden is believed to have been at the Zhawar Kili Al Badr camp for a meeting with several of his lieutenants, but already before some 70 Tomahawk cruise missiles rained into the dusty complex.

Since Sept. 11, Bin Laden stayed a step ahead of the dragnet—perhaps the largest in history for a single individual.

As the Taliban quickly fell under pressure of the US bombardment, Bin Laden fled into the inhospitable mountains in the north that separates Pakistan and Afghanistan, keeping up a spotty stream of statements—first in video tapes and then in scratchy audio recordings—to warn his Western purveyors of more bloodshed.

And hours after the US assault on Afghanistan began on Oct. 7, 2001, Bin Laden appeared in a video delivered to Al-Jazeera, an Arab satellite television station, to issue a threat to America.

"I swear by God ... neither America nor the people who live in it will dream of security before we live it in Palestine, and not before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, peace be upon him," said Bin Laden, dressed in his signature.

America can't get me alive'

He reappeared in a video appearance broadcast by Al-Jazeera on Dec. 27, 2001, shortly after US forces apparently had him cornered in Tora Bora, a giant cave complex in eastern Afghanistan. Hundreds of al-Qaida suspects are believed to have escaped the massive US bombing campaign there, and Bin Laden is believed to have been among them.

During the past decade, Bin Laden and deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri have appeared regularly in audio and video tapes to issue threats, and comment on a wide range of current events, although the appearances trailed off in recent years.

In several points in the years since the Sept. 11 attacks, Bin Laden's capture or death had appeared imminent. After the March 2003 arrest of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, officials in Islamabad and Washington were paraded out to deny a consistent stream of rumors that Bin Laden had been captured.

Through it all, Bin Laden vowed repeatedly that he was willing to die in his fight to drive the Israelis from Jerusalem and Americans from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

"America can't get me alive," Bin Laden was quoted as saying in an interview with a Pakistani journalist conducted shortly after the US invasion of Afghanistan. "I can be eliminated, but not my mission." AP

Most wanted face of terrorism

From page A1

his actions set off a chain of events that led the United States into war in Afghanistan, and then Iraq, and a clandestine war against extreme Islamic militancies that touched scores of countries on every continent but America. America's entire intelligence apparatus was refocused to combat the threat of more terror attacks at home.

Bin Laden was killed in an operation led by the United States, President Barack Obama said Sunday. A small team of American operatives carried out the attack and took custody of Bin Laden's remains, Obama said.

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Since Sept. 11, Bin Laden stayed a step ahead of the dragnet—perhaps the largest in history for a single individual.

As the Taliban quickly fell under pressure of the US bombardment, Bin Laden fled into the inhospitable mountains in the north that separates Pakistan and Afghanistan, keeping up a spotty stream of statements—first in video tapes and then in scratchy audio recordings—to warn his Western purveyors of more bloodshed.

And hours after the US assault on Afghanistan began on Oct. 7, 2001, Bin Laden appeared in a video delivered to Al-Jazeera, an Arab satellite television station, to issue a threat to America.

"I swear by God ... neither America nor the people who live in it will dream of security before we live it in Palestine, and not before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, peace be upon him," said Bin Laden, dressed in his signature.

America can't get me alive'

He reappeared in a video appearance broadcast by Al-Jazeera on Dec. 27, 2001, shortly after US forces apparently had him cornered in Tora Bora, a giant cave complex in eastern Afghanistan. Hundreds of al-Qaida suspects are believed to have escaped the massive US bombing campaign there, and Bin Laden is believed to have been among them.

During the past decade, Bin Laden and deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri have appeared regularly in audio and video tapes to issue threats, and comment on a wide range of current events, although the appearances trailed off in recent years.

In several points in the years since the Sept. 11 attacks, Bin Laden's capture or death had appeared imminent. After the March 2003 arrest of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, officials in Islamabad and Washington were paraded out to deny a consistent stream of rumors that Bin Laden had been captured.

Through it all, Bin Laden vowed repeatedly that he was willing to die in his fight to drive the Israelis from Jerusalem and Americans from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

"America can't get me alive," Bin Laden was quoted as saying in an interview with a Pakistani journalist conducted shortly after the US invasion of Afghanistan. "I can be eliminated, but not my mission." AP

Egyptian surgeon seen to succeed Bin Laden

FILE image of al-Qaida's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri released on Sept. 11, 2009, predicting President Barack Obama's downfall as the leader of the Muslim world.

ISLAMABAD—Egyptian-born doctor and surgeon Ayman al-Zawahri is al-Qaeda's second-in-command expected to succeed Osama bin Laden.

Zawahri has been the brains behind bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, and at times its most public face, repeatedly denouncing the United States and its allies in video messages.

In the latest assessment by the SITE Intelligence Group last month, he urged Muslims to fight North Atlantic Treaty Organization [Nato] and American forces in Libya.

Born into an upper-class family of scholars and doctors in an upscale Cairo neighborhood, the devoted Egyptian in his late 50s is a second alive bin Laden on the FBI "most wanted terrorists" list.

Both bin Laden and Zawahri eluded capture when US-led forces toppled Afghanistan's Taliban government in late 2001 after al-Qaidas Sept. 11 attacks on US cities.

Bespectacled, with grey hair and a grey beard, Zawahri was pronounced in November 2008 when he attacked then US President-elect Obama as a "house bigot," a racially charged term used by 1960s black American Muslim leader Malcolm X to describe black slurs loyal to white masters.

In a subsequent video, in September 2009, Zawahri intervened to the attack on Obama, saying he was no different from his predecessor George W. Bush.

"Nineteen has come with a new deceptive face...It places the entire Nation and Islam and the Muslims in danger," said Zawahri.

Like bin Laden, Zawahri has long been thought to be hiding along the rugged Afghan-Pakistan border.

'Brain to the body'

Analysts have described Zawahri as al-Qaida's chief organizer and Bin Laden's closest associate. Ayman is for bin Laden like the brain to the body," said Montasser al-Zayat, a lawyer in Cairo.

In a video after the Sept. 11 attacks, Zawahri called them a "great victory" achieved "thanks to God."

He has not always been so vindictive.

As bin Laden drove out the Taliban in 2001, Afghan sources described him flying into a fury at the nonchalance of Taliban fighters playing backgammon behind the front lines while US bombs rained from the skies.

Born in 1951, Zawahri was the son of a pharmacology professor and grandson of the grand imam of Al Azhar, one of the most important mosques in the Muslim world. He graduated from Egypt's most prestigious medical schools in 1974 and did a second degree in surgery.

By then he was involved with the Muslim Brotherhood, a non-violent group seeking the creation of a single Islamic state.

Sentenced to death

When the militant Egyptian Islamic Jihad was founded in 1973, he joined. When members joined an soldiers and assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, he was among 300 people arrested. He went on trial but was cleared. He did, though, spend three years in jail for having an unlicensed pistol.

Taking over the leadership of Jihad in Egypt in 1993, he was a key figure in a campaign in the mid-1990s to set up a purer Islamic state there, in which more than 1,200 Egyptians died.

In 1999, an Egyptian military court sentenced Zawahri to death in absentia.

Zawahri's wife, Azza, and three daughters were reported killed in a bombing strike on the Afghan city of Kandahar, the stronghold of the Taliban, in early December 2001. Reuters

Osama death rockets through Internet

SAN FRANCISCO—Most of Osama bin Laden's death rocketed through the Internet in rapid fire. Twitter messages, Facebook updates and YouTube videos flips.

The number of terse text messages "tweets" at Twitter topped 4,000 per second while US President Barack Obama announced that the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks was killed in Pakistan.

The barrage of tweets was among the highest message-sending outbursts at Twitter, which handled a record-high number of 6,939 tweets per second when New Year's Eve 2010 arrived in Japan.

Messages tagged with "#osama" and "obl" quickly jumped to the top ten spots in a list of the hottest topics in the global microblogging service.

"Twitter is our News System on this historic day," tweeted New York City journalism school professor Jeff Jarvis, who named his Buzz Machine blog online after being close to the World Trade Center when it was destroyed.

Word of Bin Laden's death was apparently first leaked at Twitter in a public message from Keith Urbahn, chief of staff for former US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"So I'm told by a reputable person they have killed Osama bin Laden," read a tweet sent by Urbahn about an hour before Obama announced the killing. "Hot damn."

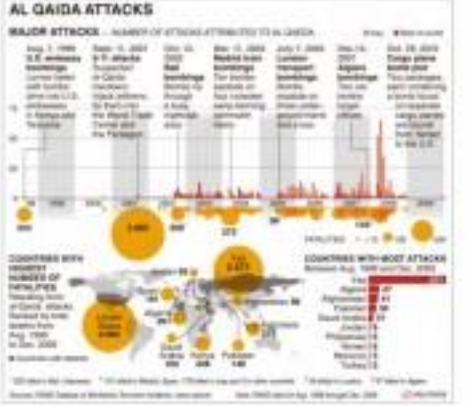
An IT consultant in the Pakistan city of Abbottabad, who tweets under the name "BadlyArmed," appeared to have unknowingly delivered a real-time account of the attack that killed Bin Laden.

Initially Adnan began tweeting messages about 1 a.m. local time complaining about helicopters hovering and then a window-rattling blast.

His series of messages at Twitter told of a helicopter crash, a family dying, and Pakistani military swarming the area.

"I was just a tweeter awake at the time of the crash," he said.

AP



Pacquiao says he fights like Bruce Lee

FILIPINO world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao smiles during a break from his training in Baguio City for his May 7 fight in Las Vegas against Shane Mosley.

It is this style—part performance art, part technical artistry unique to Pacquiao—that defines Pacquiao the best known of his generation. And it started with a videotape of the martial artist who became his idol. It started with Bruce Lee.

Last month, as Pacquiao readied his style opposite to Shane Mosley, his welterweight opponent on Saturday in Las Vegas, he wrapped his hands inside the dressing room at the Wild Card training gym here. To explain the way he fights, he settled on three words.

"Like Bruce Lee," he said.

Growing up on the Philippines, Pacquiao studied Lee, mastering his movies on endless loops. He still often views his collector's set.

"Enter the Dragon" is his favorite. His combining coach, Alex Ariza, says he believes Pacquiao built his repertoire movement off Lee's template. He continued attacking. She has drummed in and out.

"Bruce Lee jumped around and kicked his feet and shook his head and shoulders," Ariza said. "He had moves in concert with his hands. He could be choppy, but he was rhythmic. Manny does the same thing. It comes from that."

Greatest asset

A child-slim, one-dimensional left-hander arrived at Wild Card in 2001. His style still lacked pop. Because he fought with the speed of the boxers he moved against, Pacquiao overpowered opponents, made them feel opposed.

His temper, reporting partner Shawn Porter said, took less like 1...2...3 and more like 1-2-3-4-5-6.

If Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, could place one boxing skill above all others, he said, "speed is the greatest asset in the world." At one workout, even the comedian Bob Hope said Pacquiao is needed two of Sugar Ray Leonard.

The really Pacquiao outclassed first that moved like lightning with uncommon power for a man his size, power that started in those calves (his advisor Mike Koncz said those legs are in the family) and ended through his torso.

Different fighter

After Erik Morales defeated Pacquiao in 2006, Roach deviated Pacquiao needed balance, and Roach set about enhancing his right hand.

In practice, Roach instructed Pacquiao to throw jabs, uppercuts and hooks in three- to four-punch combinations, all right-handed. It took three years, but a different fighter emerged against David Diaz and Pacquiao later knocked out Ricky Hatton with a right.

Roach denies Pacquiao's career into two periods. Before the Diaz fight and after, his style had started to take shape.

The next epiphany occurred to accident, when, during training, Pacquiao stretched, wound Roach and tapped his trainer on his left shoulder. "What are you going to do now?" he asked. Roach was stunned.

Back when Roach fought, boxers mostly engaged straight on. He went with Pacquiao, the angles they created, changed the way Roach trained.

If Pacquiao circled left, outside the right hook of his opponents, their natural instinct was to follow—into his left hand. If opponents chose not to engage, they had one option, to back away.

A master of angles

Roach says Pacquiao improves his position with each angle created and makes it more difficult to counterpunch.

Roach and Pacquiao design angles specific to each opponent. The key, Roach said, is controlling space and confusion.

Roach and Pacquiao did not invent Diaz approach is boxing—People cited George Foreman's 1990 knockout of Gerry Cooney as an earlier example—but they elevated angles into art. Roach sees boxing's future in Pacquiao's fancy footwork.

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'Just a freak'

As Pacquiao kept moving up in weight divisions, Roach worried less about the weight so power that Pacquiao could add and more about the speed he could lose. Roach told Ariza, "Do not screw up his speed."

In all his years, through dozens of world champions, Roach never saw a fighter who gained so much weight and retained speed and power.

As a result, opponents have been dosed that Pacquiao used performance-enhancing drugs, a charge he's using denies. (Pacquiao has never failed a test.) Ariza points to other factors: DR forest diet, isometric exercises for balance, plyometric exercises for explosiveness.

"He's also just a freak," Ariza said. "His resting heart rate in the morning is 42 beats per minute. If he did half the work he does, he would still be athletic in today."

"Whatever plan you have against Pacquiao, he just terminates it," said Robert Garcia, trainer of junior welterweight Antonio Margarito, who's Pacquiao stopped by technical knockout. "Extremely lights like him—awkward, quick, strong, fast, good reflexes—evidently that complete."

Poetry in his feet

In recent years, Pacquiao honed The footwork that Roach said he deserved more credit for.

"When he moves," Roach said, "his footwork is so exact, so perfect. It's what creates the angles and what all he fights." Roach uses poetry when Pacquiao's feet sing, footless like ballet and more like what Ariza calls "the Riverdance."

The continual movement creates Pacquiao difficult to hone. This demands the rhythm of his opponents, forces them to take risks.

"It's an unpublished but very compelling and original athleticism," first veteran trainer Joe Goossen said. "It's not a combining flow of beauty. It can be herky-jerky. It can be frantic, deliberate, unorthodox. But it's effective."

Roach says he wishes Pacquiao would finish opponents sooner. Ibrahim Pacquiao a fan too. But Pacquiao views his style as boxing entertainment. He relishes Bin-Laden, stands in the attention.

Ariza has long wanted to test Pacquiao for scientific purposes, for long capacity, and blood cells, endurance. He would publish his findings in a scientific journal. But Pacquiao wants none of that. Part of his genius remains a mystery and always will.

"Bruce Lee," Ariza said, "was like that."

AP

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Strike paralyzes Panay transport

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO City—Public transport was paralyzed in most of Panay Island on Monday, the start of a two-day strike against oil price increases, according to organizers.

The Kabuhiglaan Kontra Krisi (KKK), a coalition of transport groups and private organizations, said 95 percent of passenger jeepneys stayed off the streets out of 9,004 in Iloilo City and Aklan.

It crippled public transport in Iloilo and Roxas cities, and parts of antique province. Edgar Salinda, regional coordinator of the Pamalakaya Sinandong ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Metro Boxer), said by phone.

The protesters were demanding the scrapping of the 12 percent value-added tax (VAT) on oil products, repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law, and for the government to investigate and stop the alleged overpricing of oil products by P7.50 per liter.

"We want to express our distress to the part oil companies for their continued profiteering amid the economic hardship we have to each day," Rick Ballasy Jaro, chair of the Iloilo City Alliance of Drivers Associations (Iloilo), said in a phone interview.

In Iloilo City, 95 to 97 percent of jeepneys refused to ply their routes, Ballasy said. Twenty-five private vehicles and a few taxis, the streets were clear of traffic, he said.

However, operations of the city and provincial government and in shopping malls continued although few people turned to work, he said.

Government trucks carried City Hall and Capitol employees. Those who still failed to report for work were censured.

In Aklan, 95 percent of jeepneys, small buses and tricycles were off the streets, according to Felix Sebios Jr., president of the Federation of Aklan Public Transport Inc.

In Capiz, transport and militant groups declared total paralysis of public transport.

The groups estimated that oil companies would lose some P150,037,500 from sales if the majority of public utility jeepneys did not ply the streets of the city and province of Iloilo for two days. They based their estimate on the number of jeepneys and their total daily consumption of diesel fuel.

The government has started to give out fuel subsidy cards in Manila on Monday to help transport operators and drivers cope with the oil price increases, but the transport groups say the measure is not enough to cushion the impact of soaring prices of oil products.

"The government nobody has been efficient by the hikes of price increases. A more meaningful and sizable option for the government is to suspend VAT collection on oil products for there to be immediate relief for our suffering people," Salinda said.

"While VAT is on suspension, the government can also take steps to gradually take control of the oil industry for the long-term benefit of the people," he said. With a report from Felipe Celiras, Inquirer Visayas

MILF panel sets peace dialogues

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY— Fresh from diplomatic talks with the government in Kuala Lumpur last week, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has scheduled a second series of "peace dialogues" with interest sectors in the country.

The first round was conducted several weeks before the April 27-28 meeting.

Ann Maamond, chief of the MILF peace panel secretariat, said the group's peace panel would consult "with Catholic, Protestant and indigenous peoples, as well as non-Moro nongovernment organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and people's organizations (POs)."

There will be held in Manila, Zamboanga, Pagadian, Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities. Another leg is planned for the island provinces of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan.

Iligan and Zamboanga are bastions of the opposition to the proposed Bangsamoro homeland deal, which was aborted in 2008.

The Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC) will facilitate the dialogues, Maamond said in a statement. The same NGO network the process during the first round of consultations.

During the earlier meetings, the MILF noted the "lack of information about the peace process, especially regarding the issues of land ownership and religion" within the context of its proposed political settlement with the government, Maamond said.

People were cautious to know what would happen to the lands being occupied by migrants since a Bangsamoro substate is established, he said.

In a parallel thrust, the government peace panel has moved to continue consultations with various stakeholders to broaden support for the peace process and provide more inputs in crafting the version of a political settlement with the Moro rebels. Rommel C. Banlaoi, Inquirer Mindanao

Macabebe honors Filipino Jesuit 'donado,' installs marker

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

MACABEBE, Pampanga—Catholics in this coastal village honored on Sunday a Filipino Jesuit donado (lay brother) who worked with missionaries, when he was the bodyguard of Pope John Paul II.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) installed a historical marker at the church's ground in the request of the parish of San Bernardo de Tolentino to honor Felipe Sonday.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) here submitted the canon for Sonday's beatification to the Archdiocese of San Fernando after a recommendation by Holy Angel University's Center for Kapampangan Studies.

"He's another source of pride of Macabebe and Pampanga," Mayor Annette Flores-Dolipas said. Other notable Macabebe men, she said, included marine Emb. Salonga and National Artist Vicente Manansala.

Born of noble origin in Macabebe, Sonday fought on the side of Spain against the Chinese in 1639 and in the 1660-61 Kapampangan Revolt against Governor-General Diego de Salcedo. He became a valedictorian and left his property in his only son, Asyuhino, before retiring to a religious life here with the Augustinians, at the age of 54 in 1667.

NEWLY installed marker honors Felipe Sonday, the canonized Filipino Jesuit who was martyred in Ozawa.

Marianas mission

Invoked to the Our Lady of Mount Carmel, his rebirth he wore a scapular until his death in 1685. Sonday spent 18 years of seven in the Catholic conversion of the Marianas Islands (now Guam) in a mission led by Blessed Diego de Sanvitores starting 1668, research by Fr. Luciano Rb. Santiago showed.

Fr. John Schumacher, a history professor at Ateneo de Manila University, said references in the Archivo Nacional (Spain) provided "perhaps the most extensive contemporary account of the life of any Filipino before the 19th century."

"It gives a view of 17th-century Filipinos in fighting attitudes and practices...it [was] among the most Hispanized Pampangos until Tagalog principalities in the vicinity of Manila Bay," Schumacher said in an introduction to his English translation of a Feb. 1, 2008, letter possibly written by Fr. Leonardo Bonfilio, one of the original companions of Sanvitores and Sonday.

A Jesuit father, Francisco Mallol, obtained a complete copy from The Real Academia de la Historia in Madrid, Spain. An incomplete copy is in the care of the Micronesian Area Research Center in Guam.

Vows of missionary

"Though an Filipino is admitted to the Society [of Jesus] as a full-fledged member during the Spanish regime, Sonday was admitted as a donado who, without actually entering the institute of the society, was to perpetuate vow consecrated by vows to adhering to the work of the missionaries," a part of Bonfilio's letter said.

Sonday, it added, was "apparently unique in several respects, not only in the fact that he was the only Filipino of whom we have records, but also in the fact that he was admitted to a kind of membership in the Jesuit community which could scarcely be distinguished from that of the Spanish members."

"Not only did he receive a Jesuit habit, ... but he is also listed in the Jesuit Roman catalog for 1683-1682 assigned to the Jesuit community of the Marianas mission," went the letter.

It was when Sonday was assigned by the Augustinians in calamity work with the Franciscans that he met Sanvitores, who was moved to take in the Filipino layman.

In the Marianas, Sonday served and behaved like a "slave," cooking and mending clothes for the missions's members and natives, educating the altar, constructing churches, houses, altars and chairs in "extensive labor" and "boundless charity."

Defender of faith

During uprisings on the islands, he took arms to defend the Catholic faith and its preachers.

Rebels caught Sonday, then 75, on July 23, 1684, leaving him for dead after inflicting severe wounds on his chest, head and left eye. He died six months later.

"In doing well the ordinary things of every day, both spiritual and material, and of his loyalty to the gospel, God is seeing other extraordinary ones which presented themselves, we have already spoken," the letter said.

It said Sonday lived a life of "great poverty" and "angelic chastity."

"He received from every respect an equal to a martyrdom," it said.

Two men in the mission, Sanvitores and Pedro Calungsod, a Filipino from Cebu, were beatified in 1985 and 2000, respectively.

"The Pampangos of the Philippines played a major role in the effective colonization of the Mariana by the Spanish, both on the political and on the missionary fronts," said Dr. Augusto de Viana of the NHCP in a paper published in the Micronesian Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences in June 2005.

"Their role in facilitating change has often been overlooked in the traditional histories of the Spanish colonization of Guam," he said.

Mayor faces raps for failed attempt to kill vice mayor

By Franklin Caligoid
Inquirer Mindanao

BUTUAN CITY—A criminal complaint has been filed against the mayor of La Paz town in Agusan del Sur and five others in connection with the failed assassination of his vice mayor in February.

La Paz Vice Mayor Renato Bulatci said he filed the charges of frustrated murder against Mayor Ambrosio Lim and five others before the city prosecutor's office on Wednesday after one of the suspects pinpointed to the local chief executive as the alleged mastermind behind the attempt on his life.

The Inquirer reportedly tried to reach Lim for comment, but calls and text messages on his mobile phone went unanswered.

Bulatci named the whistleblower as municipal civil security head Leonardo Iga, who was reportedly responsible for recruiting and training the hired killers.

"I have reached the point of no return. I have sufficient evidence and Mayor Lim must answer for the crime," Bulatci told the Inquirer.

The Feb. 22, Bulatci, who had also served as mayor of the town, and his driver narrowly escaped death after two gunmen on a motorcycle trailed the car they were riding in near his home in Acapulco Subdivision in Barangay Libertad here.

Six months, the police had failed to identify any suspects, but said politics is a possible motive, was not being ruled out.

According to Bulatci, Iga approached him on April 10 and talked about the involvement of the mayor. "Iga was troubled and haunted by his conscience so he revealed his role in the plot," he said.

Iga was said to have received fuel assistance, monthly stipends of the Barangay Bulatong gang, and promised them P1.5 million for the kill.

Sumos seek tie for top spot vs Tigers

MAUI BOSS Super Glue seeks a share of top spot at 4 undefeated Premiere Volleyball League Open Conference tonight as the Philippine Sports Commission Complex hosts the 2nd leg of the Shakey's V-League Foundation Cup at the Marikina Sports Complex.

Cignal meets Air Force at 4 p.m. with the Sumos looking for a third straight win against the Tigers to tie Cebuana Lhuillier and Cobra Energy Drink as Group B leaders (3-1 records).

Phoenix battles Bolts' Petrolle Tigers at 7 p.m. with the Bulong Generals hoping to stay in the fight for an automatic semifinal berth.

A win by the Bulong Generals will tie Phoenix with Blackwater Elite and PC Gilmore at second, behind NLEX.

Despite the Tigers' woeful 1-3 record, Sumos coach Dylo Antonio said Fernando is a dangerous team.

"We can't take Fernando for granted," Antonio said. "They have a good coach and a good system."

Cebuana Lhuillier paid the price for taking Arnaiz Avenida lightly, bowing to an upset two weeks ago. — Cedrik F. Tupas

PHILIPPINE SERIES

Illam nails 4 of 8 crowns

By Cedrik F. Tupas

SANNERUD by World Series veterans, International Little League Association of Manila (Illam) again outlasted its counterparts by bagging four of the eight championships in the 2011 Philippine Series that ended Sunday in Lipa City.

Illam captured the corresponding Little League (11-12) baseball crown as well as the Junior (13-14) and Big League (16-18) titles.

Its lone victory in softball came in the Senior League (14-16) division, where it defeated powerhouse Socorro, 9-6, in the title match.

A talent-laden Timonan grabbed the Senior League (14-16) baseball plum after blanking Mountaintops, 12-0, over an blunderspree around a breakthrough victory in Little League (11-12) softball.

Softball bathed Bacolod retained its Junior League crown on 8-0 win tough over Dit Smokey Mountain, while Manila reigned in the Big League division after overcoming Dit Smokey Mountain, 7-2.

This year's tournament marked the first time that four different squads won the softball championships.

Illam will move on to the Asia-Pacific Little League baseball tournament in Guam in June. Another Illam squad will proceed to the Junior League tournament in Indonesia.

Manila will be the site of the Asia-Pacific Junior and Big League baseball events, while Bacolod will play host to all divisions of the Asia-Pacific ball event in June.

Eighty teams saw action in the weeklong tournament in Lipa with the Little League baseball tournament drawing the most number of squads with 31.

Illam won the championship match against Timonan, 10-2, after scoring six runs in the second inning.

Lipa finished third.

MEMBERS of ILLAM's Little League baseball squad and their coaches bask in victory over Timonan in the title match.

65TH NCAA SEASON HOST Officials of the University of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD), led by president Anthony M. Tamayo (sixth from left), receive the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) flag from Fr. Antonio Murillo, OAR, president of San Sebastian during the recent summer rites at Casino Español Restaurante in Ermita, Manila. Also in photo are (from left) Dr. Jose Campos, director of Emilio Aguinaldo College; Kenneth Cariaso, member of the management committee, EAC; Dr. Ramon Concepcion, Mapua; UPHSD President Cayco, president; CEO, Arellano University Jose Vitri Cuzon, Mapua; Jun Bala; Michael Del Mundo, Mapua; UPHSD; Frank Gee, Mapua; EAC; Efren Bapue, Mapua; JRU; Nora Rizada, Mapua; College of St. Benilde; Dr. Reynaldo Pea, president, Mapua; Augusto Pulella, VP for IT system; JRU (representing Dr. Vicente Fabella).

Pacquiao ...

From page A20

Bay Bolivar Jr.

After four rounds of sparring, the Filipino superstar will proceed with his usual training regimen and exercises before leading Team Pacquiao to a 260-kilometer drive to Nevada.

Pacquiao is likely to ride in his Navigator with wife Jinkee, with the other members of his large entourage following in a convoy that includes the special bus emblazoned with the huge photograph of Pacquiao.

Heading Roach's order for a complete day off, Pacquiao did not jog nor exercise Sunday.

Later in the afternoon, a gray vest was held in Pacquiao's seat at the gated Palazzo with members of Team Pacquiao and guests in attendance.

Roach said he has heard reports that Mosley's team, particularly chief trainer Hasim Richardson, intends to complain about Pacquiao's hand wraps.

"All I hear about is that they're going to complain about the hand wraps," Roach told Manila-based sportswriters. "That's what Hasim's an expert at. He'll try to get at Manny's head. I won't let that happen."

AdU, Lyceum dispute last V-League semis berth

By Cedrik F. Tupas

ADAMSON AND Lyceum dispute the remaining semifinal berth today in the Shakey's V-League Season 8 Pre-Conference at the FEBC Spiker's Arena in San Juan.

Stunned by a three-set victory over Ateneo last Sunday, the Lady Falcons are coming with confidence brooding into the 4 p.m. duel with the Lady Pirates.

Lady semifinalists La Salle hopes to end its quarterfinal stint with a flourish as it battles a Far Eastern U side still reeling from a five-set defeat to National U last Sunday.

The Lady Gringers are already assured of the top seeding from Group B, regardless of the result of the 2 pms elsewhere with the Lady Tamaraws.

In a match billed as a preview of the finals, Adamson zoomed to a 28-26, 25-20, 26-28 victory over erstwhile undefeated Ateneo.

The Lady Falcons, already with new V-League titles, boast a formidable crew led by former Most Valuable Player Nerissa Bautista and Michelle Laborte.

The duo returned to action last Sunday after missing two games and combined for 21 points, aside from helping the Lady Falcons neutralize Ateneo's vaunted power game.

Laborte, one of the league's top blockers, will have her hands full against Lyceum's top attackers Mary Ann Bilbe and Linlda Cruz.

Coke Hoopla: Concepcion, Mayamot, Kasipagan score

CONCEPCION SURVIVED a late collapse to escape with a 94-90 victory over Tanduay in the 2nd Coca-Cola Hoopla Inter-City elimination in Bislakan on Sunday.

In Antipolo, Mayamot controlled the match from start to finish to crush Bagong Nayon, 119-77. Kasipagan followed suit in Manila with an 87-47 rout of Bahid while San Roque dealt Sitio Ibon a 88-46 defeat in Cainta.

After a 28-7 first quarter spread, Concepcion saw its lead dwindle to 58-56 at the half and to 72-66 after three quarters.

Tanduay bowed at 62-all but sudden-death free throws in the fourth.

Other matches saw Bernabe running back Hapcide, 37-41, A.S.I.T outrunning Bahid, 52-45, and Darong toppling Sto. Niño, 103-94, in overtime. — George Lucero, Correspondent

963 entries in 'Bullang'

THE NEED TO WIN Bullang Bullang National 7 Bullang Derby goes to the dreams Cebuano today after drawing 963 entries to the entire of the province.

More than 90 fights will be staged in today's qualifying round featuring the remaining batch of competitors.

Rene Palmares Jr., president of the National Federation of Cockfighting Breeders (NFGB), said that general welfare does not celebrate it to the last qualifiers this Thursday.

by calling (02) 911-0101.

All qualifiers will slug it out for the fifth on May 12, 14 and 15 at the Big Dome.

NCA fuels cocker race today

THE RACE for the Cocker of the Year series heats up today as the National Cocker Club holds its 14th derby today with the power groups of Eddie Gonzales, Manny Villamor and James Ty in front.

Top guest cockers, among them Bong Pineda, Ilong Ang and Mel Lim, are vying against the best of the NCA in the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexo.

Lady cocker Ouang dela Cruz's entry "Inkilapard Champion" and Eddy Magbuelo's "Magnolia Cassius" share the cocker race lead with 10 points, 2.5 above of Eddie Gonzales' "Bruce" and 3.5 ahead of "Agustin ALVARO" of Jerry Ramos.

"SF San Roque Cockpit" of Vicy Cotic and Bobed Uy has 6 BBs place with 56 Cocoins, another 1 in front of "JMC" of Gen. Carmona. In security place is Efren Cuebar Herradur BC" with 39.5 followed by "Pinay Ind. AM Grid Sagupaan Winning Line" of Ritchi Antonio with 34.

FilOil hoops: Tams, Bulldogs still on a roll

ET BENALDE'S Ian Data Pua challenges two Jose Rizal U defenders.

By Cedrik F. Topas

PAL HATTERS 2 and National U 2 remained their streaks yesterday to stay on top of their groups in the FILOIL Preseason Premiere Cup.

The Tamaraws feasted on another strong performance from sophomore Terrence Romeo to topple Emilio Aguinaldo College, 67-51, while the Bulldogs found another hero in Glenn Khobuntin to a 77-70 win over a hard-fighting Lyceum squad.

Jose Rizal U survived a shootout with St. Benilde, winning 109-96 in overtime, behind 20 points from guard Alex Almazan.

With Bobby Ray Parks opting to facilitate the offense, the 6-foot-2 Khobuntin, sidelined by sore eyes two weeks ago, took over the scoring chores, finishing with 22 points on 9-of-16 shooting.

The 6-foot-2 Parks finished with only nine points, eight below his average in the first three games, but dished out eight assists.

"We had a hard time because Lyceum was playing a small lineup," said FEU coach Eric Altamirano. "We gave a little pasabox on defense in the first half, but Khobuntin gave us the inside game we needed in the second half."

The Bulldogs now occupies the solo lead in Group A after improving to 4-0.

Pipo Stainless continued his solid showing for FEU with 13 points and 16 rebounds, chipping up in the absence of big man Aldrech Ramos, who sprained his ankle in a win over Mapua.

"We sense this team to have a killer instinct heading into the OAME" said FEU coach Eric Flores. BOB reports from Carmela Documento, Brad Jukagol, Jonathan Dorna

The scores:

LYCEUM 70 — Gonzales 20, Ala 14, Santos 11, Cruz 9, Ilagan 7, Lanete 5, Ayaay 4, Jovero 0, Tolentino 0, Lingcay 0, Ayaay 0

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Heat, Grizzlies draw first blood /A19

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy B. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiaw

Fight simul picks Manny by KO

By Ray Lucero

HOLLYWOOD—Even the computer overwhelmingly favors Manny Pacquiao to win over Shane Mosley.

If the ESPN virtual fight simulation, posted on the Web Friday, turns out to be accurate, Pacquiao will not only dominate Mosley but will deal the American his first career knockout defeat.

They might for the World Boxing Organization welterweight owner on May 7 at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas.

In the video-centric Pacquiao-vs-The Dream-by-Proxy bout," produced by EA Sports Fight, a two-time Pacquiao is pitted against certified boxing greats Roberto Duran, Sugar Ray Robinson and Bernard Hopkins, plus Mosley during their prime.

The bottom? shaker-by-a-big-k-1 odds, Pacquiao is shown in the simulation downing Mosley five times before finally knocking him out. The "knockout" is Mosley's first in a 51-year boxing career that has seen him clinch five titles in three weight classes.

In the end, a "groggy" Mosley is shown being dragged to his corner.

The other simulated fights sees Pacquiao knock out a 29-year-old Duran at 1:35 points and does with a 46 year old Hopkins at 1:07.

A 29-year-old Robinson, at 144 lb, knocks out Pacquiao, though.

Meanwhile, the latest odds at Las Vegas has pure Pacquiao at minus-300 and Mosley at plus-600. The classic a $900 bet on Pacquiao will win a mere $300 while a $240 bet on Mosley will earn $600.

Though most betting pundits are picking Pacquiao to keep his unbeaten run since 2005, many of them are not predicting a knockout victory because of Mosley's supposedly granite strong chin.

Mosley, apparently growing in confidence as the fight nears, earlier said that Pacquiao will go down during the fight.

The 39-year-old Mosley also disputed the notion that he will be hard-pressed to carry on fighting if he does not stop Pacquiao in the early rounds.

"I've knocked people out early and I've knocked people out late, so I don't buy into that," Mosley told BoxingScene.com on Monday.

The taller, better Mosley said he is using the 2008 Margarito fight...in which he stopped the Mexican in the ninth round—as his blueprint for success against Pacquiao.

The key according to Mosley, is to land a lot of punches and prevent Pacquiao from throwing his usual volume of blows by getting the Filipino out of his comfort zone.

FILIPINO trainer Bobby Fernandez massages Pacquiao's leg. AFP/JACK GUEZ

Pacquiao leaves for Vegas today

By Ray Lucero

HOLLYWOOD—All lanes have been entered, display Pacquiao is in tip-top shape, and Freddie Roach believes they have done everything necessary to ensure victory against Shane Mosley on May 7.

Still, they are leaving nothing to chance.

Pacquiao will hold his last sparring session Monday afternoon (Tuesday in Manila) before they leave the MGM Grand Gym here for the city of a thousand bells.

Roach said he wants to apply the final touch to an intense seven weeks of preparation that started in Baguio City and will culminate on Wednesday in Las Vegas.

Tapped to provide Pacquiao a semblance of Mosley like competition are welterweight sparring partners Ricky Hatton and veteran lightweight

PACQUIAO A-21

Aplus METRO

DID YOU KNOW

THE NEWLY beatified Pope John Paul II visited the country three times, once as a cardinal, and twice during his papacy—in 1981 and 1995. During his February 1981 visit, he beatified the first Filipino martyr, Lorenzo Ruiz, along with 15 other Christian martyrs and servants; told then Jaime Cardinal Sin (during his second mandate) to become a Bishop; and visited the Manila Cathedral to become a Basilica. The Manila Cathedral was named a Minor Basilica on 27 April 1981. Read more about the Pope John Paul II on April 27, 1981. **Dahlia Ulanday, Inquirer Research**

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Board takes up wage hike in Metro

Pay increase order may be issued as early as next week, says chair

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Capital Region (NCR) wage board yesterday began its public hearings on the proposed minimum salary hike for Metro Manila workers.

Raymundo Agravante, chair of the NCR wage board, said they were planning to come out with a decision next week after President Aquino on Labor Day ordered regional wage boards to hasten their proceedings.

"We've calendared that. It has long been set by the board to issue the wage order next week," Agravante said.

He added, however, that everyone would have to wait until after the hearings to see if a pay hike order could come out by next week.

"Let us first see what will happen in our public hearing," Agravante said.

Labor officials earlier said that the wage board could come out with a ruling by the middle of the month on a petition filed by the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) which is seeking a P75 salary hike for workers in the metropolis.

The minimum pay in the NCR was last raised in July 2010 when the wage board implemented an increase of P22.

The Partido ng Manggagawa (PM), meanwhile, urged the Metro Manila regional wage board to immediately grant the TUCP petition.

"We ask the wage board to break rapid inflation and approve the P75 petition since our study reveals that the cost of living for a family of six in Metro Manila as of March this year is already P13,304 a day," said Renato Magtubo, PM national chair.

He also criticized the President for not giving workers even nonwage benefits on May 1.

"Private sector workers got nada from Pnoy. Pinoy did not really break bread with labor but he broke tradition by giving nothing to workers, not even a consolation de-lube of nonwage benefits," Magtubo said.

He added, "Even if Erlef NCR wage board approves the P75 petition, it will not be enough to bridge the huge gap between the minimum wage and the cost of living. The disparity between the P404 minimum wage and the cost of living is 100% or 150 percent of the ordinary wage."

"Even if two members [of the family] work—which is the key one, take one policy of the government—then their combined income will not be enough to feed the entire family," Magtubo added.

He said PM arrived at its cost of living figure using its April 2010 survey of the daily cost of living and the National Statistics Office's 2.6 percent estimate of the inflation rate from April 2010 to March this year.

"Our estimate is already an underestimate since the rise in prices has been accelerating since March," Magtubo said.

On the other hand, members of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) held a rally in front of the Department of Labor and Employment office in Intramuros, Manila, and called for the immediate abolition of regional wage boards (RWBs).

The group said that for the past two decades of the boards' existence, "no meaningful and substantial wage hikes [have been] implemented."

"The RWB is ... why minimum of the growing chance for a P125 wage hike remains elusive. Through the RWB, Pnoy has [an] excuse (for not implementing) a P125 wage increase despite the rising cost of oil, petroleum products, food and other basic commodities and services," said Roy Seño, KMU-NCR chair.

Gunman in BIR official's slay tells police he received P20,000 for the job

By Nika Calleja

THE ALLEGED gunman in the murder of a Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) official has said that he was paid P20,000 for the job, a police officer told reporters yesterday.

Armando Cuello, who was arrested by police operatives on Good Friday, made the admission during an investigation, Chief Insp. Hong Dadaro, field officer of the criminal investigation and Detection Group in Rizal province, said.

"[The payment] was P20,000, according to him. But I don't believe him; I think he received more than that," Dadaro added.

Cuello, however, claimed that he did not know who ordered the killing of Marcelino Yap, the revenue officer of District No. III which covers the so-called SMART area, including San Mateo, Marikina, Antipolo City and Teresa in Rizal Province.

According to him, he only tagged along with Yong the cohort from Infanta to the killing, who he identified as Antonio Angel, 48, a resident of Tondo, Manila.

"We are still verifying if there is really such a name. We want to make sure we are not following ghosts," Dadaro said.

Cuello and Yong are the primary suspects in Yap's death.

The victim was on his way to his office in Antipolo City on Feb. 17 when he was shot and killed by two men on a motorcycle.

A check of the motorcycle's license plate led the police to Cuello, Cuello's nephew, who then tagged his uncle and Yong.

Dadaro said Cuello told them that the planning for Yap's killing took only a few days.

MODERN PORTRAIT
A calesa (horse-drawn carriage) is framed in one of the windows of an old abandoned building in Intramuros, Manila. EDGAR SAMSON

Controversial ordinance revised

By Mike Frialde

RESPONDING to widespread criticism to a controversial piece of legislation regarding the use of contraceptives, the barangay council of Ayala Alabang in Muntinlupa City submitted a revised version of the ordinance to the city council yesterday morning.

In a text message to the Inquirer, Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin San Pedro said he had asked councilors to immediately take a look at the revised ordinance titled "Protection of the Unborn Child Ordinance of 2011."

"I have asked the city council to speed up the review of the controversial ordinance so that the issue which had caused divisions among residents and various groups may be finally put to rest," he said. "Besides, the issue has dragged on for too long."

All barangay ordinances must be reviewed and approved by the city council before these can be implemented.

The Inquirer obtained a copy of the revised ordinance through the city's public information office.

In the newer version, the barangay council took out the provision on the selling of contraceptives such as condoms without a prescription and replaced it with one which prohibits the sale of the items to minors.

It also did away with the provision which expressed outright support for natural family planning methods and imposed a ban on the promotion of artificial family planning methods in its health centers. Instead, it added a provision which called for the establishment of crisis pregnancy centers.

"The barangay shall encourage and where possible, support, financially and otherwise, the establishment of one or more crisis pregnancy centers ... to provide assistance in the form of counseling ... medical and material support for women who are experiencing a crisis pregnancy," the revised ordinance said.

The ordinance was signed by barangay chair Alfred Xerex Ruigen Jr. and almost all councilors. Only one, Joanna Gingging, abstained.

New NCRPO chief eyes 24/7 texting service

By Mike Navalan

MISSING to build stronger police-community ties, the newly installed director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) yesterday promised to institute a 24-hour text messaging service that will function as a public action center and complaints desk.

In a speech following his assumption of the top police post in Metro Manila, Chief Supt. Alex Perdima said he would adopt the communications mechanism of the General Luna police office, which he used to head, to bring the police closer to the people.

"This is a tried and tested system ... which will not only improve further our crime monitoring and response time but also help forge closer ties between [the police] and the people," he said.

Perdima assumed the NCRPO post after Director Nicanor Bartolome was appointed to the fourth highest position in the hierarchy of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

In his speech at the turnover ceremony, Bartolome cited various statistics to show that crimes in Metro Manila were down by 39 percent during his six-month tenure.

He attributed the decline to the intensified patrols conducted by policemen in their areas and the public's cooperation.

At the same time, Bartolome also recalled the NCRPO's rigorous drive against the proliferation of illegal drugs, resulting in the seizure of 650 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu with a street value of P1.5 billion.

For his part, Perdima expressed his desire to upgrade every policeman's investigative skills and maximize "the use of every forensic tool available to our arsenal."

"My tell-the-or [the] officers-in-and will be running after all wanted criminals preying on our citizens," he said.

The turnover ceremony was attended by key personalities, including former PNP chief Director Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., now Zambales governor; and Aurino Ramos Jr.

METROBRIEFS

Trader kidnapped, killed in Marikina

FIVE armed men abducted a businessman in Marikina City on Sunday morning. They later dropped him off in Silang, Cavite, reported his apparently lifeless body to the police authorities and PNP in Imus, Cavite.

Chief Supt. Gilberto Cruz, Marikina police chief, said Lorie Calimpo, 37, a businessman, reported the robbery to them several hours later. Calimpo was withdrawing money on Sunday morning at an ATM booth in Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City when two men approached him and grappled him. He was then forced into a Toyota Revo. They drove off with him while three other suspects followed them in his Mitsubishi Adventure. The victim said they stopped at an ATM booth in Libis, Quezon City, and forced him to withdraw P5,000 from his account. Later on, the men released him in Silang, Cavite. They took his cash phone and car (which was recovered in Silang). The victim was then able to call his wife to report the incident and ask for help. — Mike Eubaja

Free screening of Pacquiao fight

MANILA's sports centers will hold a free screening of the highly anticipated match of Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao and American "Sugar" Shane Mosley in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sunday, Rizalde Guzman, Mayor Alfredo Lim's chief of staff and media liaison chief, said that the fight would be shown at the Tondo Sports Complex near Estero de Pasig, Delpan Sports Complex on Roxas Street, Quiapo, Tuesday, Bagong Silang Sports Complex on Commonwealth Avenue, San Andres Sports Complex on San Andres Street, Malate, and Tondo Sports Complex on Tayuman Street, Sta. Mesa. Complimentary tickets will be given out on a first come, first served basis at barangay halls. — Anna Katrina Pangalangan, contributor

Kwak lecture at UE

THE University of the East will hold a lecture on "Fighting Corruption in the Philippines: What Went Wrong and What Can Be Done" on Monday from 1:30 p.m. at its Manila south gate. Speaker international anti-corruption expert Jeny Kwak. Lecture participants/attendees are requested to preregister by contacting the UE Guidance Extension 7100/07 local 208 or 209, or by leaving a letter of request addressed to 1268/800.

HEAT BUSTER
A child taking a bath on a sidewalk of Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City catches the attention of a passerby. ALEC CORCO

After Smart, Globe seeks tax break from city gov't

By Jaymee T. Gamil

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Globe Telecom has asked the Manila City government to exempt it from paying local taxes, more than a week after a petition filed by its rival, Smart Communications Inc., was approved.

On April 19, the city council passed an ordinance granting Smart's request that it be exempted from paying franchise and real property taxes on its telecommunications equipment as well as its station in Manila.

The exemption was granted because the members of some councilors that it would lead to a decrease in the city government's revenue collection.

The ordinance granting a similar exemption for Globe, "under certain terms and conditions," has been referred to the council's committee on laws which the latter is to act on first reading in the coming weeks.

Majority floor leader Manila Mayor Lito Atienza-Peraza, author of both ordinances, insisted that both firms were entitled to tax breaks based on their Congressional legislative franchises.

"Because they do their franchises, when they pay to the national government, they should be exempted from certain taxes imposed by local governments," she said in an interview.

She added that the board hoped to increase collection over a misconception. "There is nothing to lose because they have never paid local franchise taxes to anybody."

FREE SEMINAR
on HOW TO START A BUSINESS

The PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (PICPA) thru its Southern Metro Manila Chapter in cooperation with DBP, STI & Lions of Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Taguig & Pateros invites CPAs & the General Public to a FREE SEMINAR on HOW TO START A BUSINESS for Small Business Enterprises on May 6, 2011 from 8:00 am to 12:00 nn at the AUDITORIUM of Rizal Technological University, Boni Ave. Mandaluyong City. To get there, please take a FREE shuttle in Pasideal on EDSA cor. Balete St. in Makati.

Key Coverages
- How to register with the Department of Trade and Industry
- A discussion of the step by step procedure to register new businesses and documentation needed
- Municipal/Mayor's Licensing requirements and fee to be remitted
- BIR requirements, reports and forms for submission to the agency, frequency requirements, printing of official receipts and registration of books of accounts and its maintenance
- Basic Accounting Lectures
  Definition of Accounting Terms
  Principles of the Accounting Equation and its application
  The financial statements for small businesses

SEE YOU THERE!

QC teen gang strikes again, kills helper

By Julie M. Aurelio and Hans Jurnas Barroso

QUEZON City policemen are on the lookout for members of a teenage gang who mauled to death a helper in Barangay Payatas on Sunday, two days after they pummeled a wedding party and killed the groom's father.

Supt. Bernie Blomoyo of the Batasan police station said a witness had identified the leader of the gang, but the suspect cannot be named since he is a minor.

The group, initially identified as the "Rascal Group," and composed of more than 10 teenagers aged 15 to 17, has been linked to the stabbing of Romeo Bautista, 22.

Blomoyo said the gang had been causing terror in Barangay Payatas and is considered "untouchable" by residents.

"There are many witnesses but they are afraid of the group as they can't speak up," the official added.

He said the group was positively identified as behind the robbery at a wedding reception early Friday morning that resulted in the killing of the groom's father.

The group is allegedly behind other cases of violence in the barangay, police said.

Residents told police they have seen the gang use illegal drugs and arm themselves with knives, handguns and improvised shotguns.

On Sunday, Bautista, a helper at an appliance store, was on his way home after a round of drinks with his mates at around 10:50 p.m. when he happened to pass by the gang of teenagers.

Investigator PO3 Modesto Ramores of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the youths ganged up on Bautista, who was stabbed in the chest.

The victim managed to run away and reach an uncle's house nearby.

Elmer Bautista told police that he was surprised to see his bloodied nephew in his doorstep.

He said Bautista was able to say "Nadulasan ako ng mga ito [Infosat I was stabbed by some young persons], before collapsing.

The victim was rushed to the Batasan General Hospital but he did not make it alive.

Two days earlier, Reynaldo Andres Sr., 51, was shot dead after the gang, numbering 30 and armed with knives and handguns, crashed his son's wedding party on his street and fired in rule the guests of their celebration.

The besieged suspects took off with the bride's cell phone.

Frank Chavez for Ombudsman

MANY reasons have been given on why Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez resigned before she could face impeachment proceedings in the Senate.

She stood her ground and expressed optimism she would be acquitted by the Senate that would have acted as court.

But the most plausible reasons are that Gutierrez was left on in the cold by her former benefactors, former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria and boyfriend Mike Arroyo.

It's just as well she resigned.

The Arroyos still have their supporters in Congress.

When their interests are at stake, the Arroyos will leave their supporters to fend for themselves.

* * *

President Noy is looking for Merci Gutierrez's replacement.

Who doesn't he include Frank Chavez, the former Solicitor General during his mother's administration, in the short list of candidates?

Chavez, who graduated cum laude at the University of the Philippines College of Law in 1971 and became a lawyer in 1972, was given the "Tribune of the People" award in 2000 by the National Union of People's Lawyers.

The award was conferred on Chavez for his "unwavering fight these past 28 years (since December 10, 2000) for freedom, justice, human rights, honesty in government service, and constitutional advocacy espousing public interest cases and the cause of the poor, needy and the oppressed."

* * *

I was once a beneficiary of Chavez's advocacy championing the oppressed.

In 1990, Iloilo Judge Jose Bartolome sent me to jail for contempt for his decision about a robbery/homicide case he was handling.

The judge wanted the case hush-hushed because, I learned later, he would acquit the defendants even if there was very strong evidence against them.

The lawyers, through lawyer Tom del Castillo, filed a petition in the Court of Appeals for my release.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Being the Solicitor General at the time, Chavez was supposed to defend the action of Judge Bartolome.

Instead, Chavez denounced the judge for being "drunken."

At a work, I was immediately released.

* * *

In Saturday's editorial, I said—citing an insider—that the top officials of the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) were performing their functions illegally.

Under the Pagcor charter, according to the insider, the President recommends to the Pagcor board of directors nominees for top positions.

But according to a Pagcor old-timer, the President allegedly didn't do so since he arbitrarily removed all members of the Pagcor board and replaced them with a new board.

The old-timer claims all Pagcor officials are now illegally performing their functions, because of the President's action.

But Executive Secretary Paje Ochoa has contradicted the old-timer.

He said that according to the Pagcor charter, members of the board are appointed by the President for a term of two years.

"There is no need for any recommendation from the old board or any entity as the President appoints through an appointment letter, not a desire letter," Ochoa said.

* * *

When my friend's father died, the family claimed his insurance from the National Life Insurance Company.

The insurance firm asked...and was given—a deed of settlement and certificate of release from the family.

Now that it has the deed of settlement, it has refused to issue the check to the family.

The Insurance Commission should do something about National Life Insurance.

dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

WARNING TO IMPORTERS

The Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of Product Standards (DTI-BPS) warns importers of products covered by the Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) Scheme to strictly comply with the terms and conditions of the Conditional Release issued by the Bureau.

All importers issued with the Conditional Release are not allowed to transfer, use, sell or distribute their shipments, in whole or in part, prior to the issuance of an ICC Certificate. Moreover, importers shall have their shipments inventoried and sampled by authorized representatives of DTI-BPS, DTI Regional/ Provincial Offices, or BPS-recognized inspection bodies within three (3) days after the release of goods by the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Importers who fail to comply with the said rules and regulations shall face appropriate legal action under Republic Act No. 4109, Republic Act No. 7394 and their respective Implementing Rules and Regulations. Consequently, DTI will withhold the issuance of any permit, license, authority or registration to importers found not abiding by the provisions of said rules and regulations.

For more information, call BPS at 751.4720/ 24 or send your message through bps@dti.gov.ph.

FLORES

Sick woman needs help

FELICIANA, Flores' goiter has started to prevent her from enjoying out her duties as a mother to her seven children.

Her husband, Bernardo, a security guard for the Supreme Court, said that doctors at Fe del Mundo Medical Hospital in Novaliches City had advised his wife to undergo thyroidectomy to remove the goiter.

"But unfortunately, what our young children while I am away at work?" Bernardo said.

The couple's youngest child is only 5 years old.

Bernardo said his wife needed to undergo an operation to correct her condition. The procedure, however, will cost them P85,000, a sum beyond their means.

The couple can be contacted at 0919-7011138 and 0920-7360981. Donations can be sent through Bernardo's Metrobank account number 3380047580. — Angie B. Atienza

Deal to end Yemen crisis teeters as talks bog down

WASHINGTON—An agreement to end Yemen's political crisis appeared to be crumbling Sunday, as talks bogged down yet again between the country's unusually suspicious political factions and a signing ceremony for the deal was postponed indefinitely.

The agreement, reached last week with the help of Persian Gulf nations, would require President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down after almost 33 years in power, in exchange for immunity from prosecution for himself and his family. Saleh would be the third Arab leader to be forced from power in the wave of popular uprisings sweeping the Arab world.

But many in Yemen's political opposition fear that Saleh—a political survivor with a taste for brinksmanship—is deliberately stalling for time in an effort to outmaneuver his political rivals.

Last week's agreement came amid intense pressure from Saudi Arabia and the United States, which are concerned about a rise in jihadist violence after more than two months of street protests and government assaults on them. Seven Yemeni soldiers were killed Sunday by gunmen, Yemeni officials said, in the latest of a series of attacks believed to have been carried out by the local affiliate of al-Qaida.

The agreement was to have been signed Sunday or Monday in Riyadh, the Saudi capital. But Yemen's political opposition balked after Saleh made it clear that he would sign not as president, but as his separate capacity as leader of the governing party. There are also concerns about how various details of the agreement would be carried out—suspicion, some say, of a total lack of trust between the two sides.

There is widespread concern that gridlock in all sides of the conflict are putting themselves at risk for violence in the event that the talks collapse completely. A number of Saleh's former allies have defected to the opposition since the protests began, including the country's most prominent military leader, Maj. Gen. Ali Mohsin al-Ahmar. Al-Ahmar's troops have at times appeared to be on the brink of open clashes with forces loyal to Saleh.

"I think all sides are now at their highest military alert," said Abdul Ghani al-Iryani, a political analyst in Sanaa, the capital. "If (the deal) doesn't work, all hell will break loose very quickly."

Yemen's political crisis is complicated by the gap between the formal opposition parties and the street protesters, who have denounced the agreement for a transfer of power. The protesters have rejected the 30-day transition period the agreement stipulates, saying the president should leave immediately. And they have deployed the immunity clause, saying Saleh and his relatives, who occupy many important positions in Yemen's security apparatus, should be prosecuted for the deaths of some 140 protesters since the demonstrations began in February and for corruption.

SALEH

The agreement also calls for the opposition to bring the street demonstrations—which are making plans in cities across Yemen, not just the capital—to an end. But the opposition, a coalition of political parties that have long contained and often made deals with Saleh, say they lack the ability to stop the protests. And the protesters, who have clearly made it clear that they would not obey orders from opposition leaders.

The agreement was brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council, an association of Yemen's neighbors, and had the backing of the United States and the European Union. New York Times/Associated Press

Israel remembers 6 million Holocaust victims

JERUSALEM—Israel's prime minister warned Sunday that the nation must not dismiss Iran's threats to its existence, drawing a parallel at a ceremony to mark the start of the 6 million Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust of World War II, a mass murder that still reverberates in the Jewish state more than six decades later.

Iran and its allies, Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, openly call for the destruction of Israel, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and "Iran is even arming itself with nuclear weapons to accomplish that goal."

He said the most important lesson of the Holocaust for the Jewish people is, "If someone threatens to destroy us, we must not ignore their threats."

Netanyahu addressed a crowd of hundreds of Holocaust survivors, diplomats and Israeli leaders at Yad Vashem, Israel's official Holocaust memorial center.

"The threat against our existence and our future is not theoretical," he said. "It must be stopped." Iran denies it is making nuclear weapons.

For years, Israel has called for world action to stop the Iranian nuclear program, backing diplomatic efforts and sanctions but never taking the option of a military strike off the table.

At the annual ceremony, its Holocaust survivors lit symbolic torches to mark the beginning of the annual observances.

A solemnizing Monday as tad sirens went to sound around the country to mark two minutes of silence in honor of the victims, followed by ceremonies called "Each Person Has a Name," in which people read out the names of victims at Israel's parliament and other public locations.

Opposition exploits that listing system gives the huge number of 6 millions a personal element, as well as cramming those who claim the Holocaust did not happen.

Israel has also been marking 50 years since the trial of Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi organizer blamed for most of the logistical planning who was abducted from Argentina and brought to Israel to face charges.

The 1961 trial marked a turning point in Israeli attitude toward survivors, who distinguished for being helpless victims. The victims that emerged from the trial, revealing the inhumane conditions Jews faced at the hands of the Nazis and relishing their mostly ineffective attempts to rebel, were more sympathetic for the survivors.

Israel's current president, Shimon Peres, and nationalities were eliminated by the Nazi death machine, millions of dollars in bank accounts and other valuables remain unclaimed.

Project Heure: The Holocaust Yad Avrel Hashtikaan Yashkeve, has amassed a database listing over 600,000 pieces of property owned by Jews in pre-war Europe. AP

A SATISFIED toddy hour belonging to Ina Bennett, a 75-year-old Holocaust survivor, is displayed with a picture of her as a child at the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum in Jerusalem on April 17, 2011. Bennett had handed over to Yad Vashem for safekeeping the top she says she wore during to a Hitler girl while hiding from the Nazis in Poland during World War Two. GETTY

Hundreds arrested in Syria crackdown

DAMASCUS—Hundreds of demonstrators were arrested across Syria on Sunday, including in the flashpoint town of Deraa and a besieged Damascus suburb, after dozens were killed in weekend protests, activists said.

Anti-regime activists called for fresh protests aimed at breaking the week-long siege of the capital's Douma suburb and of Deraa, as well as in solidarity with other towns faced with deadly crackdowns.

Six civilians were killed in Deraa on Saturday, a day of massive protests over the Muslim weekend in Syria where rights groups say the civilian death toll from unprecedented demonstrations first erupted on March 15 has topped 500.

British Prime Minister David Cameron denounced Syria's "disgraceful" crackdowns and urged more global pressure against Damascus, although Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu warned against foreign military intervention.

The United States has blocked assets of President Bashar al-Assad's brother Maher, who commands the feared Fourth Armoured Division, as well as top officials and Syria's intelligence services.

The European Union is preparing a raft of sanctions, including an arms embargo.

"At least 200 people were arrested today across Syria, including in Deraa, Douma, London and [Jamiilah]," an activist told AFP by telephone.

He said demonstrations took place in the central city of Homs, where protesters chanted "the people demand the fall of the regime" on the Khalidiyeh square in the West mosque.

A protest was also held in the coastal city of Latakia and a candlelit vigil in Banias.

Troops in tanks backed by other armoured vehicles on Sunday evening to keep residents indoors and arresting men aged 18 and over, an activist from the town told AFP.

"Tanks early morning the army and security forces have entered the city and started to enter by one and making sweeping arrests. Hundreds have been arrested since Friday," activist Abdullah Ahmad said by telephone.

In Douma, "the army has tightened the siege and has a list of 2000 names of people it wants to arrest," another activist said.

A young man told AFP how he escaped on Sunday from Douma at "great risk" using back roads. "It was very difficult and very dangerous. I had to avoid all the checkpoints." "People are afraid to leave their houses but they are beginning to feel the pinch. There are shortages of food, baby milk and other basic stuff," he said. AFP

Canada holds federal election; outcome seen too tight to call

OTTAWA—Canada's federal election on Monday is too close to call, raising the prospect of a potentially destabilizing political battle between the ruling Conservatives and opposition parties.

Polls show the Conservatives are set to win the most seats in the 308-seat House of Commons but it is impossible to say whether they will capture a majority or if they could find opposition support to make a minority government work.

Canada—the largest single supplier of energy to the United States—has not seen such an unpredictable election for more than three decades, Ekrall University political science professor Richard Schultz told Reuters.

"It's as up in the air ... as a dice number (of politics). I'm as confused as anyone by this," he said.

The right-of-center Conservatives have been in power since early 2006 with two successive minority governments, which required them to gain opposition support to pass key bills.

They insist they need a majority to keep taxes low and ensure Canada continues to recover from the global crisis.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper—who has run a relatively low-key campaign—says if he falls short of his goal, centre-left opposition parties will soon form and create a

"dangerous" coalition guaranteed to destroy the economy.

His main target is the left-leaning New Democrats, who have been in second in the polls. They promise to raise corporate taxes, increase social spending and bring in a cap-and-trade system to cut emissions of greenhouse gases.

"The risk, a very real risk if we do not get a majority, is a New Democrat-led government promising the moon and soon seeing the consequences—taxing more, killing jobs, sowing further back ... and sooner rather than later, yet another election," Harper told a rally in Alberta Canada on Sunday.

Harper could benefit from voter-splitting between the New Democrats and their Liberal rivals and eke out a majority, which would save him a third four-year term in power. But an Ekos poll for the Toronto star, also released on Sunday, made a minority result look likely.

Ekos put public support for the Conservatives at 34.6 percent, with the New Democrats close behind at 31.4 percent and the Liberals on 28.4 percent. This strongly suggests the

HARPER

election will produce another Conservative minority.

A Conservative-led coalition might be more stable but is not an option, given Harper's attacks on opposition parties and his highly uncompromising style of governing.

Canada's economy is one of the best performing among rich industrialized nations, although the deficit spiraled to record levels as the Conservatives spent heavily to pull Canada out of recession. All three parties promise to balance the budget within a few years, although they vary on how to do it.

The main reason for the political uncertainty is the resurgence of rise of the New Democrats, a pro-labor party that has never held power and started the campaign in third place. Reuters

Israel halts funds after Hamas deal

JERUSALEM—Israel has suspended tax transfers to the Palestinians, its finance minister said on Sunday hinting the money will be used to fund Hamas after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas struck a unity deal with the Islamists.

The Palestinian Authority (PA), led by Mr Mahmoud Abbas, already faces huge pressure to stop it and from Monday the transfers, which make up 70 percent of its revenues. A senior Palestinian official said Israel, by its action, had "started a war". Israeli Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz said the funds would be withheld to the tune of 300 million shekels ($88 million) as customs and other levies that Israel collects on behalf of the Palestinians under interim peace deals.

In an interview on Army Radio, Steinitz said Israel feared the money would go to fund Hamas, an Islamist militant group that runs the Gaza Strip and whose charter calls for the destruction of the Jewish state.

Israel had threatened sanctions last week in response to Abbas's surprise announcement of a unity deal with Hamas that envisages the formation of an interim government and elections later this year.

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad said the PA was "in contact with all (international) influential forces and parties to stop Israel from taking these measures". Reuters

Deep sea search uncovers Air France black box

PARIS—Investigators have located and recovered the missing memory unit of the flight data recorder of a 2009 Air France flight—a remarkable deep-sea discovery they hope will explain why the aircraft nose dived in a storm area of the mid-Atlantic, killing all 228 people on board.

France's air accident investigation agency BEA said a search by a submarine probing 3,900 meters (12,800 feet) below the ocean's surface located and recovered the data recorder nearly a month after it went missing. The unit is now aboard the Ile de Sein, a ship that's helping conduct the probe, the agency said.

The statement also included photos of the recorder—a red cylinder partially buried in sand on the sea floor. Judging from the photos, the unit appeared to be in good condition.

Still, BEA officials have warned that the recordings may not prove invaluable, considering the pressure they were subjected to for nearly two years.

"We can't say in advance that we're going to be able to read it until it's been opened," a BEA spokesperson told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. She did not give her name in accordance with her agency's policy.

Last month, the agency said the unknown search had identified the "chirps" that had held the recorder, but the memory unit was still missing. Detached from the chassis, the memory unit was found nearby, the spokesperson said.

The flight data recorder stores technical data from the flight. Another so-called "black box" records cockpit conversations. The second black box has not yet been found, but the submarine probes were continuing, the spokesperson said.

Investigators hope Sunday's remarkable discovery will allow them to determine what caused the June 1, 2009, crash of Flight 447 from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to the French capital, Paris. The aircraft disappeared into the Atlantic northeast of Brazil after sending automatic messages high of trouble transformers.

Automatic messages sent by the Airbus A330's computers showed it was incoming false air speed readings from sensors known as pitot tubes. Investigators have said the crash was likely caused by a series of problems, and not just sensor error.

The crash site was in remote and in such a deep area of the Atlantic that two previous underwater operations failed to turn up the bulk of the wreckage. The latest search—the fourth—was targeting an area of about 1,000 square miles (10,000 sq. km.), several hundred miles off Brazil's northeastern coast.

Searchers were using up to three autonomous underwater search vehicles in each of which can stay underwater for up to 20 hours while using sonar to scan a mountainous area known as the Mid-Ocean Ridge. Researchers download the data, and a vehicle with a high resolution camera is sent to check out any underwater anomalies are evidence of debris. AP

The WORLD

Edita Laverinto B. Suico

Gadhafi family deaths spur Nato raids scrutiny

BENGHAZI, Libya—Nato officials and Western leaders defended the increasingly aggressive air strikes in Libya on Sunday after the Libyan government said one barrage had killed four members of Moammar Gadhafi's family, raising criticism that the attacks exceeded the Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force.

The air strikes Saturday night killed a son and three grandchildren of Gadhafi, according to the government, which accused the Nato coalition powers of "a direct operation to assassinate the leader of this country" in violation of international law.

Gadhafi supporters in Tripoli burned or vandalized the closed American, British and Italian embassies and ransacked United Nations buildings, leaving the evacuation of the 12 remaining international staff members. And Gadhafi's military showed no sign of unrest after the air strikes, shelling rebel positions in the besieged port city of Misrata and elsewhere.

Ronnie, a permanent member of the Security Council, said the Nato attacks ensured "various double-dose confidence members' statement that the strikes in Libya do not have the goal of physically annihilating Mr. Gadhafi and members of his family."

While the Obama administration had not commented about the air strikes, it criticized the Libyans' attacks on the embassies in Tripoli. Mark Toner, a State Department spokesperson, condemned the vandalism "in the strongest possible terms."

The United Nations' secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, also did not comment on the air strikes, which were authorized under a Security Council resolution to prevent Gadhafi's military from killing civilians in Libya's two-month-old civil war.

State commanders, Western leaders and officials in Washington, who had signaled last week that they intended to escalate the air strike campaign in Libya, said the attack Saturday had hit a legitimate military target.

They reiterated that they were not specifically trying to kill Gadhafi, whose last decades of repression sole has been upended by a rebellion inspired by the downfalls of autocrats in neighboring Tunisia and Egypt.

State officials say that the intense bombing in Tripoli is designed to hurt Gadhafi's military apparatus. Such a strategy is heightened with risk for the already fragile coalition. In Libya, the officials argue, the boundary between legitimate military targets and residential compounds is often blurry.

Micah Zenko, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, said that the strikes on the command posts are "clearly" beyond the mandate of the Security Council resolution, but he called the new attacks a strategy to "terminate the campaign" as quickly as possible.

And, he said, once planners at NATO headquarters in Brussels have been "telegraphing it pretty openly" that the bombings would include strikes against Gadhafi's command posts.

Still, the international condemnation of Saturday's strike could create friction in Nato and cause some officials to rethink the allies' strategy. And it could cause a backlash among Libyans who have been willing to put aside misgivings about the foreign military intervention because it was intended to prevent Gadhafi's loyalists from killing civilians.

New York Times News Service

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- Maynilad spent P2B in Q1 to boost service /B3

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

91-day T-bill rate hits new low of 0.568%

Yields of 6-month, 1-year securities inch up

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
May 3, 2011
42.635

STOCK MARKET
May 2, 2011
7.25

By Norman V. Donsigo

THE YIELD on the 91-day treasury bills fell to a new historic low of 0.568 percent as yesterday's government auction got mixed results.

This was 11.3 basis points lower than the 0.68 percent set in the previous auction two weeks ago.

On the other hand, interest rates on the 182-day bills rose 8.2 basis points to an average 0.95 percent while those on the 364-day securities increased 6.4 basis points to an average 2.032 percent.

Rates for the benchmark bills and the 182-day paper were lower than those for three deals in the secondary market, which settled at 0.728 percent and one percent, respectively.

However, the primary market average for the 364-day bills was higher than the 2-percent yield set in the secondary market.

National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan said yesterday's rates were a result of "a confluence of event" that were favorable to maintaining the current investors policy.

One such event was about the US Federal Reserve's current stance, for the moment, about their policy rates, which influence the decision of other cen-

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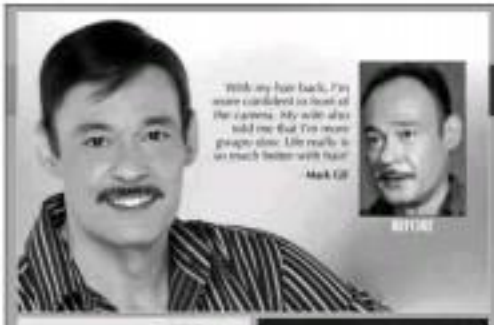

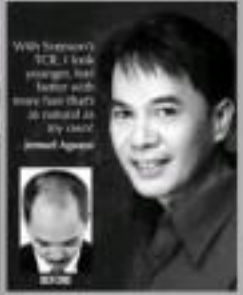

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John Hay arrears hit ₱2.4B

Eton posted 154% profit growth in '10

PROPERTY DEVELOPER Eton Properties Philippines Inc. of tycoon Lucio Tan will launch more projects this year—if following a banner year in 2010—to take advantage of the country's brighter economic prospects.

More miners will home by overseas Filipino workers (OFW) and last interest rates offered by banks are expected to help keep demand for new homes strong, the company said.

"Time will show strong members in 2011 since we see very good opportunities for market expansion this year, coupled with the scheduled turnover of our early two-thousand projects," company president and CEO Danilo Ignacio said in a statement.

The company on Monday reported a 154-percent growth in net profit for 2010 to ₱570 million, driven by strong residential sales and office space leasing from business process outsourcing firms and mall properties.

Last year, the company completed several projects, including the Eton Parkview and Eton Residences condominium buildings in Manila.

"We are excited with the upcoming launch of our first residential project in Iloilo Country, our 12-hectare mixed-use township development at the corner of Iloilo and Quezon Avenues," Ignacio said.

This year, the company said it would focus on the development of its two "township" projects—the Eton City in Santa Rosa, Laguna, and Eton Central in Quezon City. The company also has several tourism-related projects in the pipeline, given the government's move to attract more visitors to the Philippines.

"There are very exciting times for the property industry. Factors that make for a healthy economy are present," he said.

He said OFW remittances, low interest rates, and stable inflation would help create jobs and continue to drive economic growth.

Paolo G. Montecillo

Amount forms part of P2.7B in obligations covered by MOA

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SUBIC lease rentals of the 5,000-hectare John Hay Development Corp. (JHDevco) for the 240-hectare Camp John Hay in Baguio City have ballooned to ₱2.4 billion, according to records from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

The BCDA said JHDevco's arrears now run up to the billion because the property developer failed to settle lease obligations, in accordance with the memorandum of agreement (MOA) that the two parties signed in 2008.

In a statement issued yesterday, BCDA vice president for planning and business development Jesus Santiago said that under Section 3 of the agreement, JHDevco agreed to settle about ₱2.7 billion in obligations, including interest.

The amount represented lease obligations from 1999 to June 20, 2008, when the lease contract for Camp John Hay was last renewed.

The 1999 BMDA provided that JHDevco would pay ₱3.68 billion to BCDA over a 15-year period, with a three-year moratorium.

Of the total, JHDevco remitted ₱1.98 million upon signing of the BMOA. Another ₱180.3 million was paid to the BCDA by way of dation en pago involving various properties.

Deducting these payments, JHDevco's arrears now amount to about ₱2.4 billion.

"This means that JHDevco will pay BCDA the amount of ₱619 million starting 2013 to 2023 on a diminishing balance," Santiago said.

JHDevco incurred another ₱272 million in arrears from September 2009 to March 2011, representing unpaid current rentals.

Instead of paying the government, however, Santiago said JHDevco had resorted to making "irresolvable, malicious, and deliberate" offers.

He further hailed JHDevco's claims that the money it should be remitting to BCDA or lease payments are deposited in an escrow account, as "no such escrow account has been established in trust for BCDA."

"In the contrary, JHDevco refuses to put up the escrow account for the security agreement required under the 2008 BMOA," he said.

In this case, he said the BCDA had already exhausted all possible measures to come up with a mutually acceptable solution to the issue, including the signing of three memorandum agreements in October 1998, July 2000, and July 2003.

He said the BCDA would be unable to fulfill its own financial commitments to the Baguio City local government until JHDevco settles its arrears.

JHDevco entered into a lease agreement with the BCDA in 1998 for the development of 240 lots of Camp John Hay into a five-star tourist destination.

Trading price of SMC

MARKET RIDER

Dem Somera

TRADING early Friday night to have a good night's sacrifice the 15th Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) the following day. I was tossed by text calls regarding the results of the secondary shares offering of SMC.

People seemed to remember about what could be the impact of the decision of SMC to allow its underwriters to exercise shares allotted for oversubscription demand.

Involved in the fundraising campaign of the company was the sale of a number of common shares and units of dollar-denominated convertible bonds.

A total of 130.32 million shares were allocated for the common shares portion. This consisted of an allocation equivalent to 78.8 million shares for the international market and 51.52 million shares for the domestic market.

The shares were to come from selling stockholder Top Frontier Investment Holdings Inc. and the company's treasury, consisting of 82.74 million common shares and 47.58 million shares, respectively.

Some 33.46 million shares were reserved for oversubscription demand, divided into 7.88 million shares for the international market and 25.58 million shares for the local market. These shares may be used to meet oversubscription demand for either the domestic or international market, depending on the assessment of the underwriters.

The over-allotment option may be exercised within 30 days from the date of the offering.

The additional shares for oversubscription demand would amount to about 32.54 percent of the regular common shares offer.

Bottom line spin

In addition to the goal of raising money for the "expansion plans of the company on its infrastructure projects," the investors were also aimed at widening the firm's public float to comply with the new criteria for inclusion in the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi), now at 30 percent of issued and outstanding shares, or for raised to 12 percent by September this year.

Per the information presented on Friday at the website of the PSE, the free float of SMC stood at only 8.1 percent.

The sale of 92.74 million shares by Top Frontier would mean a 4.8 percentage point increase in public ownership to 12.9 percent, enabling SMC to meet the listing criteria.

In the meantime, the divestment of Top Frontier will not affect its grip on the management of SMC. Along with the shares held by SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., Top Frontier will continue to control at least four 42 percent of the voting stock in the company. Needless to say, this will perpetuate the control of SMC by Top Frontier and Cojuangcos.

Before the public offering, Top Frontier controlled about 47.3 percent of SMC. In turn, Top Frontier is actually 48 percent owned by SMC itself. The rest of which is controlled by the group led by Roberto Ongpin, Diego Dobal and Joselito Campos.

With that situation, some people are worried that the price performance record of SMC in the market may not hold any longer.

Before the robust-ray suspension of trading of its shares, SMC shares received several bearings owing to its then rumored offer price of ₱71.00 a share.

Showing been priced much less at ₱130 a share, it is feared that SMC's shares will receive more beating when trading resumes on Thursday, May 5.

One bright spot in the SMC deal, however, remains. The convertible bonds sale was about 50 percent of this total offering. It has attracted more than oversubscribed 2 percent a year for the bondholder for the next three years. On redemption date, the bonds will be exchanged for common shares at a 21-percent premium of the current offer share price of ₱130, or at ₱157.50.

Thus, if it fell that if the market price of SMC shares goes below the offer price of ₱130, it may not stay down in the medium and long term.

The full-year income impact of SMC's four power plants (which account for 21.7 percent of the company's generating capacity) may start to be felt this year. SMC expects Pelicon Corp. to contribute significantly to its consolidated bottom line earnings also this year. To recall, PCOR posted an 86-percent growth in our income to ₱7.66 billion. Weighted-out sales went up 73 percent to ₱5.3 billion with from gain of ₱1 billion.

SMC's growth and value prospects are expected to be further boosted by its planned participation in the Aquino administration's PPP program—with projects such as the Cavitex airport, NLEX and SLEX 7—that may drive up the price target to ₱105 a share.

Index changes on May 9

The composition of the PSEi and its sectoral indices will again undergo some changes on May 9. Security Bank Corp. will replace China Banking Corp. and Bank of the Financial Index unchanged. There will be changes in the Industrial index. Twenty-eight companies will now compose the sector, to include Integrated Micro-Electronics Inc., Republic General Corp. and San Miguel Brewery.

To be added to the Holding Firm index are Anglo Philippine Holdings Corp. and Swift Foods Inc. to replace Inc. They will replace Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and Pacific Inc.

The Property index will have 15 firms, with Polar Property Holdings Corp. to be added. The Service index will still be composed of 27 firms. Lennox & Bonuts World Corp. will replace PLDT Communications and Energy Systems Inc.

The Mining and Oil index will have 14 with Apex Mining Co. Inc., Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. and United Paragon Mining Corp. to replace Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Inc. and Philodrill Corp.

(You may reach the Market Rider at market.rider@inquirer.com.ph or at www.facebook.com/)

Vista Land expanding to 16 new areas

By Paolo G. Montecillo

HILLSIDE LED Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc. plans to aggressively expand outside of Metro Manila to build more homes in the country where demand for new homes has so far been muted.

In a statement, the company, owned by Sen. Manuel Villar, said it would embark on a major expansion to 16 new areas across the country in the Philippines.

The areas identified included Bacoor and Rosario Metro; La Union; Nueva Ecija; Bicol; Batangas; Quezon; Roxas; Pampanga; Davao; Bataan; Iligan; and Tacloban.

"The expansion to these areas will give Filipino families more opportunities to own homes as Vista Land provides options for how to find market segments at various price points," Vista Land CEO Benjamin Thrower Jr. remarked in a statement.

He said the company would target families of overseas Filipino workers (OFW).

"The majority of our OFWs hail from the provinces and there is strong preference for house and lot in their hometowns or provinces of origin which they intend to live in with their families," Serrano said.

The company said its subdivisions projects would cover areas of at least 30 hectares each and would be strategically located.

"Buyers have a myriad of house models to choose from and our look forward to living in trusted, master-planned communities. Vista Land ensures that all its projects are well maintained even after turnover, through property managers," Serrano said.

Vista Land also said 60 percent of Vista Land's reservation sales came from the families of migrant workers, particularly those based in Europe, Middle East and Asia, at least 5-15 percent of the total sales uptake is generated by US-based OFWs.

"The upward trend in the level of OFW remittances bodes well for our expansion drive," she added.

Vista Land has allocated P45 billion for capital expenditure from this year to 2013. Future Vista Land developments include vertical projects, commercial space and BPO office buildings.

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Maynilad spent ₱2B in Q1 to boost service

Water wastage now down to 50%

By Rico T. Delmendez

MAYNILAD WATER Services, Inc. (Maynilad) has spent almost ₱2 billion in the first quarter of this year to improve service levels in its concession area, the company said yesterday.

In a week, the number of Maynilad customers who have 24-hour water supply now stands at 75 percent from 43 percent in 2007.

In a statement, the company said that water pressure has increased significantly with 92 percent of Maynilad customers enjoying at least 7 pounds per square inch (psi) of pressure, compared to only 64 percent four years ago.

The water company's Non-Revenue Water (NRW) level also dropped to 50 percent from 66 percent prior to the takeover of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) and DMCI Holdings Inc. in 2007.

Maynilad said it continuously invests in service improvement through the replacement of old pipes, laying of primary distribution lines in metered areas, development of new water sources, and construction of reservoirs to maximize efficiency in distributing water to its service coverage area.

For this year, Maynilad has allocated more than ₱9.5 billion for capital expenditures.

Of this amount, some ₱5.7 billion has been reserved for the reinforcement and replacement of primary pipelines.

NRW management was allocated ₱1.6 billion and the wastewater program, ₱1.6 billion.

The balance will be used for water metering, sewer production and other projects.

"We are extremely proud of what we have achieved so far. If given the opportunity, we would like to share our expertise and resources so that the 16 million Filipinos who still do not have access to clean water will finally have the supply they need," Maynilad president and CEO Ferdinand Dela Cruz said.

Maynilad said it is the largest private water concessionaire in the Philippines in terms of customer base.

IT-BPO grew despite crisis, says survey

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE INFORMATION Technology segment of the business process outsourcing (IT-BPO) industry in the country grew substantially in 2009, even when the global economic crisis peaked at the time, results of the latest survey by the Ibon Foundation Inc. showed.

IT-BPO services covers information technology functions of enterprises that are outsourced to external firms.

According to the IT-BPO survey conducted by the Ibon Foundation Inc. Philippines last year, results of which were released over the weekend, revenues generated by the country's IT-BPO industry amounted to $6.3 billion in 2009.

This marked a 10.6-percent jump from $6.3 billion the previous year.

The increase in the industry's revenues came despite the global economic crunch, which led to declines in investments in various sectors globally.

Officials from the BSP-which monitors inflows of foreign capital into the country, said the industry's revenue growth in 2009 partly helped the Philippines escape recession.

The recession-ravaged the 2009 pulled most advanced economies into recession that year. In the case of the Philippines, however, it kept itself from recession and instead posted a deceleration of growth.

The country grew by 1.1 percent in 2009 as the economic performance of industrialized countries, led by the United States, caused declines in export incomes of emerging economies.

Nido eyes new Galoc operation

By Jerry R. Barcia

NIDO PETROLEUM (UK) Ltd. said it has completed a review of the Galoc oil field prospect for a possible phase 2 development of the Galoc oil field off Palawan, as the reserves in the current well bears depletion.

In a regulatory filing, Nido Petroleum said that following the completion of the internal review, the company now plans to review this work with the Galoc joint venture.

Under the initial Galoc phase 2 development option, the joint venture hopes to increase reserves by 5 million barrels of oil with its plan to drill two new wells, which were estimated to yield about 6,000 barrels of oil per day. These wells may be drilled in the northern portion of the Galoc structure to boost production and access undeveloped reserves.

The Galoc joint venture is added, also considered to assess proposals to further improve oil production, including the upgrading of the current mooring and host system.

As of end-March this year, production at the Galoc oil field, owned by Service Contract 14C, reached 8.02 million barrels, already declining from its 79 percent of its estimated reserves of 10 million barrels. The operator of the Galoc oil field has also managed to deliver a total of 20 shipments of the Galoc light crude to its refinery customers, since it began production in October 2008.

Power Situation Outlook
for Tuesday, 3 May 2011

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,411	1,307	1,109
System Peak (MW)	7,344	1,201	1,171
Actual Reserve (MW)	1,199	444	194

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PLDT Supports the 5th Annual Call Center and BPO Training Convention

PLDT ALPHA (Enterprise) recently supported the 5th Annual Call Center and BPO Training Convention organized by the Total Development Services, Inc. The convention showcased key global industry executives that shared knowledge and strategies that will enable them to participate in rapidly evolving industry through maximized growth potential, investment in the latest learning technology and collaboration and interdependence that leads to success.

Total Development has been providing clients with customized outsourcing and Bank of Administration since 1981. The company provides a contact center solution that offers call center consulting, training, outsourcing and management recruiting services. Their expertise is the result of engagements with Fortune 500 as well as service providers and shared service centers throughout the world. Working from their offices in the United States, and the Philippines, they deploy concentrated professionals to take organizations successful from any location - domestic, to multi-shore and offshore.

Shown in photo during the event are from left to right: Jerry Ilo, PLDT Relationship Manager; Jon Kaplan, TotalDevelopment Services, Inc. President and Jackie Ang, PLDT Relationship Manager.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)

Date: May 3, 2011

Project: PNI: Philippine Energy Efficiency Project (Project No: 42981)

Title: Development of Green Building Rating System

The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the financing of the Philippine Energy Efficiency Project (the Project). This EOI is for the development of a single Green Building Rating System through the streamlining of existing rating initiatives into a nascent unified building rating system. This rating system will be enforced through voluntary agreements and supported by developing awareness of the rating system.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is the Executing Agency for the Project and the Implementing Agency will be the Project Management Unit – Philippine Energy Efficiency Project (PMU-PEEP). Under the Project, the Department of Energy plans to extend this industry rating system to: (i) new and remodified buildings, (ii) expand it in harmony with other initiatives within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region and (iii) certify buildings using the Green Building Rating System.

On behalf of the DOE, the Project Management Unit invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from registered organizations that are developing efficient building rating systems. The organizations that will be selected will sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the DOE for the development of the specifications of the rating system, development of the specifications for the scoring mechanism and software, design and development of the accreditation requirements and procedures for implementing the rating system; design, development of the training curriculum for accrediting assessors; review and upgrading of the design of the buildings selected for demonstration in meeting the system requirements and certification of buildings using the system.

1. The deadline for the submission of EOI is May 11, 2011 to the address below. All firms will be advised of the result of their EOI.
2. Interested firms are requested to obtain a copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and other relevant documentation from the address given below during working hours from 9:00 to 16:00 (Monday to Friday).

Attention: Loreta G. Ayson, CESO I
Undersecretary and PEEP Project Director
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City,
Metro Manila 1201, Philippines
Telephone: (632) 479-2900 (look for local 2900)
Facsimile: (632) 840-2138
Email address: lgayson@doe.gov.ph

Asec. Ramon Allan V. Oca
Chairperson
DOE Bids and Awards Committee
Telefax: (632) 840-2014

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
7th Flr., SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax: 726-0931 to 39, 726-0972
P.O. Box 1009 EDSA
Website: http://www.sec.gov.ph

NOTICE

REPUBLICATION OF ANY AMENDMENTS OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9856 (RET LAW)

Due to inadvertence, SEC Memorandum Circular No. 2, Series of 2011 that was recently published failed to include a provision approved by the Members of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The correct version of the said Circular reads as follows:

SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2
Series of 2011

SUBJECT : Amendments to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9856 of Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) Act of 2009

The Commission, in its Resolution No. 185, dated 21 April 2011, resolved to amend the following provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9856 or Real Estate Investment Trust Act of 2009 (the "Act"), to wit:

Section 5.1 (c), Rule 5

Minimum Public Ownership. A REIT shall be a public company and at the completion of its IPO, at least 67 shall be owned by at least one hundred (100) persons and (a) open and active trading, have at least one hundred (100) public shareholders owning at least one board lot each (100 shares), and (b), in the aggregate, own property/ies worth P5 billion (based on the latest audited financial statements) or more and provided, that the minimum ownership shall be increased to forty percent (40%) of its entire issued and outstanding shares prior to listing.

Section 5.1 (d), Rule 5

Dispersion. A REIT shall have a minimum common capital of Php250 million. Provided, that any one (1) person owning more than 10% of the listed or registered stock to be within 5 years of the property list on the stock or within 5 years of the property list on the stock or within 5 years of the property list on the stock or

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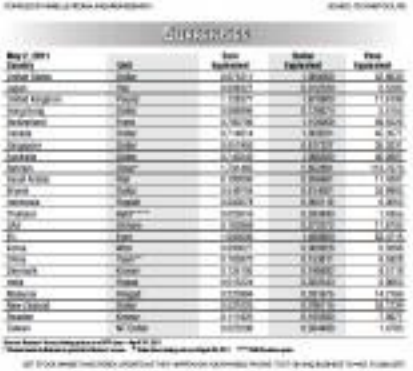

BDO posts 18% profit jump in Q1

Fee-based income rose 25% to P5.4B

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE COUNTRY'S biggest lender Banco de Oro Unibank Inc. grew its net profit by close to a fifth in the first quarter, driven by an increase in fee-based services that made up for rapid growth in earnings from loans.

In a statement, mall magnate Henry Sy's banking arm said it ended the January-to-March period with a profit of P2.44 billion, up 18 percent from the same period last year. This was slower than the 32 percent growth that BDO posted in the corresponding period last year.

The bank's net interest revenues from loans rose by a modest 2 percent to P8.3 billion. This was driven by a 16-percent growth in consumer loans to P43.1 billion. Total deposits were up 10 percent, coming mainly from low-cost deposits generated from its extended branch network.

Non-interest income from fee-based services, however, posted a healthy gain of 25 percent to P5.4 billion. This came mainly from revenues from services such as trust, private banking and remittances.

Trading and foreign exchange gains also grew 44 percent to P1.8 billion "in market conditions remained favorable," the bank said.

The company said it was able to manage expenses, which grew only 1 percent in the three month period.

The bank also focused on beefing bad loans provisions, which were up 27 percent year on year, bringing the company's nonperforming loan coverage to 100 percent. This was up from 91 percent at the end of last year.

BDO's capital adequacy ratio, a sign of the bank's financial health and ability to expand its portfolio, remained healthy at 14 percent. This was above the central bank's minimum requirement of 10 percent.

BDO's shares rose 0.36 percent or 10 centavos to close at P54.50 a piece yesterday.

Local stocks move sideways in thin trade

LOCAL EQUITIES prices were flat at the start of the week as investors stayed on the sidelines to await results of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' policy meeting this Thursday.

Also weighing on investors' minds is the announcement of the latest inflation figures, which many feel may have gone up substantially following recent increases in the price of fuel.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) gained 0.17 percent or 7.05 points to close at 4,326.76. The broader all-share index likewise jumped 0.61 percent or 18.01 points to finish at 3,076.31 points.

The only true bid for mining and oil shares, which rose 3.17 percent to 16,791.65.

However, the service sector sank 1.32 percent or 17.73 points to 1,366.29. Financial companies were also in the red, falling 0.03 percent to 955.65.

A total of 93 shares climbed on 92 losers retreated. Forty-four other stocks were unchanged.

Trading volume reached 3.81 billion shares worth 93.76 billion, lower than the 2.42 billion shares worth 56.27 billion on Friday.

The inflation rate for April and the results of the BSP's monetary board meeting, both scheduled on May 5, were seen influencing the trend for stock trading, a local brokerage said.

The effect on consumer confidence "and the sustainability of earnings growth" for cyclical sectors such as banks, properties, and industrials existed. Bond companies rely on these factors, the company said. *Paolo G. Montecillo*

91-day T-bill rate hits new low of 0.568%

from page B1

tral monetary authorities" like the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Ilas said.

The BSP was the last central bank in the region to increase its policy rates from their 6-month record close levels, recently standing up by 25 basis points its overnight borrowing rate to 4.25 percent and its overnight lending rate to 6.25 percent.

Ilas also cited economic positive reports on the government's first-quarter fiscal position that he said indicated that Malacañang's economic program was turning out to be effective.

Last week, the Bureau of the Treasury reported that the deficit for January-March settled at P106.2 billion, or less than a quarter of the planned P330 billion.

Ilas added that yesterday's auction was influenced by inflation figures remaining within the targeted range (that the BSP adopted).

As of the first quarter, the inflation rate averaged 4.1 percent, well within the BSP's goal of between 3 and 5 percent.

Yesterday, investors brought for sale a total of P23.82 billion worth of bids as against the P9 billion on offer.

Tenders for the three-month bills reached P6.65 billion, or more than twice the P3.5 billion offering. Bids for the six-month bills totaled P6.02 billion, or almost twice the P3.5 billion offered, while those for the two-year securities reached P4.71 billion, more than twice the P4 billion being sold.

The Treasury raised a total of P9.6 billion from all three maturities, exceeding the original offer that totaled P9 billion.

Bidding rules allow the Treasury to double the amount it would award for non-competitive bids if, for a given tenor, such bids accounted for less than a quarter of all tenders.

Non-competitive bidders do not indicate a rate in their tenders and they will get the resulting average rate where their bids are accepted.

In yesterday's case, non-competitive bids for the 91-day bills were less than a quarter of total tenders for each tenor, which allowed an additional award of P600 million.

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LIFESTYLE Wellness

He wants to run faster marathons –and bring in more tourists

Lito Villaharte has kept in shape through wakeboarding and triathlons–the same sports that have turned his once backward province into an international sports tourism destination

By Marge C. Enriquez
Correspondent

LEGAZPI, PHILIPPINES—"Lito" Villaharte Jr. shook as he stood on a thin board made of graphite and fiberglass, his feet in bindings, while a boat hauled him across the water. It was his first attempt at wakeboarding, up on the egging of his two sons who were experienced wakeboarders. This was way before he became the youngest governor to be elected in Camarines Sur in 2004.

"The first few hours were frightening. I could not balance. My body ached. I must have drank two gallons of water. My kids kept teasing me," recalls the supremely-built celebrity.

Wakeboarding is akin to surfing or waterskiing behind a speeding craft. One executes gravity-defying tricks over the edges on the water, called wakes, made by powerful boats. Villaharte says it takes core strength and strong legs to balance oneself while being pulled by the boat. The self-taught watersporter figured out the techniques. "Just bend your knees and hold tight at the start. I was letting myself be pulled. To keep your balance, you've got to counteract pull."

Daring enough

Subsequently Villaharte started teaching "Anybody can learn," he says. Students master how to get up, control the wake, learn various positions and, if one is daring enough, jump. He has taught such celebrities as Jerry Barquez, Paolo Bautista, Angel Locsin, and even 79-year-old Conchita Lee, whom he says is a natural water skater.

Pushing 40 in June, he does cross-training of five sorts. "Even wakeboarding, you have to take off your shirt," says Villaharte. "The sport makes your stomach smaller and your upper body bigger. You gain confidence

NEXT PAGE

What you can learn from the latest USDA dietary guidelines

By Micah Felipe Mendoza
Contributor

JUST LIKE fitness and exercise, there are also diet and nutrition trends released yearly to answer current concerns such as metabolic trends and health conditions of the population. However, health professionals still go by the basic safe and effective nutrition recommendations backed up by studies, science and experience.

The Obama's Secretary Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released the 2010 Dietary Guidelines regarding energy balance and weight management, nutrient adequacy, sodium consumption, and alcohol consumption. These can be used as your guide to healthy living so you won't get confused by numerous fad diets and product gimmicks that promise quick weight loss and instant lifestyle change.

Physical activity are the most basic and important areas to pay attention to, and which of best times confuse the general public.

Self-monitoring

Weight management for adults is more effective when there is consistent monitoring of body weight, food intake, and physical activities.

This guideline is consistent with studies about regular weight loss and consistent monitoring of food and exercise. You should be able to stay more conscious of nutrition content of various foods by reading nutrition labels, asking the calorie values of restaurant foods, and being more aware of calories that you burn with your physical activities.

These weight management efforts will effectively lead you to faster results, and will properly balance your food intake with your activities.

Fast-food consumption

Avoid fast food restaurants, because studies show that eating fast food once to twice per week is strongly associated with weight gain, overweight and obesity, especially among children.

You should limit access to fast foods, and make it a habit to prepare healthy meals at home while following the right portion size and nutrient content of foods based on your goals, weight, fitness level and food preferences.

Television watching and eating

Children and adults should limit screen time to one to two hours a day, and avoid eating while watching.

Watching television for more than two hours a day is associated with weight gain due to lack of physical activity, and additional food consumption while watching. Encourage your family to engage in substituting activities for extra viewing time that will limit calorie consumption and increase calorie burn, like walking after dinner or doing exercise games like Wii Fit with the whole family. Avoid having junk food at home, since food availability is one of the primary causes of weight gain.

Watching television for more than two hours a day is associated with weight gain due to lack of physical activity and additional food consumption while watching

HEALTHY breakfast

Breakfast and snacks

Children and adults should choose to eat nutrient-dense breakfast with the right amount of protein, carbohydrates, and fat, and avoid processed foods, especially for snacks.

Make it a habit to eat healthy breakfasts and snacks.

Fad diets

If you are trying to lose weight, avoid consuming less than 45 percent of calories from carbohydrates and more than 35 percent of calories from protein, since studies show that a high-protein and low-carb diet cannot help you sustain weight loss for the long term.

For weight loss and maintenance, the calorie percentages from one's daily intake of these nutrients should be followed: protein, 10-35 percent; carbohydrates, 45-65 percent; and fat, 20-30 percent. Following this guideline prevents one from developing the most dreaded health conditions.

A sound sports nutrition study comparing four diets shows that following these popular diet plans can lead to micronutrient deficiency, which is scientifically related to debilitating diseases like birth defects, cancers, osteoporosis and cardiovascular diseases.

Sweetened beverages

Discourage consumption of sweetened beverages for kids, since these are associated with adiposity. Replace the empty calories instead with the needed nutrients derived from real foods and natural drinks. For adults trying to lose weight, effective should be made to avoid sugar-sweetened beverages including coffee and tea, energy drinks, and high-calorie drinks low in nutrients.

Parents should limit children's access to flavored drinks, especially when dining out. The most popular sweetened drinks contain tons of calories from sugar and fat. Make it a habit to drink more water and juices from real fruits and vegetables with less sugar instead of the artificial ones.

Over- and under-consumption of foods

Children and adults should limit intake of over-consumed solid fats, added sugars, sodium, saturated fat, cholesterol and refined grains, and make an effort to increase intake of under-consumed foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean meats, milk products and oils.

Efforts should be made to increase intake of dark green and red-orange vegetables, beans, fruits, and milk since it has also been reported that calcium, potassium, vitamin D, and dietary fiber are the most under-consumed nutrients. Children between 2-8 years of age should consume two cups of milk products and milk a day, and three cups for kids aged 9+ and older to avoid bone problems and future diseases. Limit daily salt intake, since the new low-sodium intake recommendation is only 1,500 mg/day, equivalent to about two-thirds of a teaspoon.

Alcohol intake

Do not consume more than one to two drinks per day since heavier consumption over time will lead to weight gain due to calorie consumption from alcohol, not considered a good source of nutrients.

Individuals should have the discipline to consume alcoholic moderation, more studies show that moderate alcohol consumption can lead to less unintentional injuries like falls, vehicle accidents and drowning, and even less risk for developing coronary heart disease, lung cancer, and can lead to accidents, age-related cognitive decline, and bone problems.

E-mail the author at mmhpe@gmail.com

He wants to run faster marathons...

From page D:

Soon feeling fit.

A veteran of world championships, he has impressed the crowd so far this several feet in the air and spins before landing on the water. He two consecutive years (2008 and 2009), he won third place in the World Wakeboarding Association Championships in 2008. Over 200 participants from 20 countries joined the event. The famous guests were so impressed that Middlebury didn't have to bid for the 2009 championship. "The wakeboarders were first-time visitors. They returned in 2009 with friends and family," he says.

Middlebury says sports tourism have repeat visitors. "When people take up the sport, they want to learn more, so they keep coming back. Sometimes would you want to see a lawyer or a scientist? With a sport, you want to enjoy it everyday or every month. That's the beauty of sports tourism," he says. The tourism market is strong, says 17.05. They rose from five to six months just to be the winners.

Lately, Middlebury took up the triathlon and has been working with former Olympian Laura Wilson in his coach. When he's in Manila, he likes to Metro South and runs around the subdivision. "Caroline is still the best. There's the lake, the scenic bike routes, and the fresh mountain air." He first from was a 21K run in Bangkok last December, with a running time of two hours and 25 minutes.

He is getting for Ironman 70.3 this August. But being a runner, he plans to join the running part in the relay race.

Villafuerte says the province has been rated in blogs as one of the best places for triathletes in the world. The participants are taken care of, from arrival to departure. "It's like an Olympic village where they stay close to the area, unlike in other places where they have to go far to the lake or beach. All the athletes in the village interact," says Villafuerte.

The athletes love the warmth of the Filipinos. One Mexican had a flat tire and somebody offered him a spare. But what he got a second flat tire, he asked for help, and the Filipinos offered him a spare tube. During the awards, he said he was touched; he would not have finished the race were it not for the kindness of the locals. "Other athletes want to give up, but the smiles of our people inspire them to move on. This doesn't happen in other countries," says Villafuerte.

Meanwhile, the governor is aiming to push all the limits—be it in understanding more marathon fans, and tourism outlook.

A COMBINATION of wakeskiing and wakeboarding, wakeskiing involves standing and surfing in cruise gravity-defying moves over the waves.

VILLAFUERTE in an address event before crossing the finish.

No more careless pricking—school opens for facialists and aesthetics

THE STEREOTYPE of beauty services in the mass market chains can be appalling. Chances are, the skincare doesn't get any more discerning to determine the right facial and products to be used. The facialist will use standardized pore containing a one-fits-all formula and pay dry the customer's face with cheap roller pressure.

The salon will name the procedure as a laser technology when the equipment uses only light. Without saying, if the customer has a heart condition, a pacemaker or any contraindication, the facialist will then commit they electrical stimulation directly onto the customer's skin. All these shoddy procedures could have adverse results.

Education gap

Finding internationally accredited aestheticians and teachers in Davao Brown says these centers are not to be blamed.

"There is a gap in education. The people who sell the machines should be held responsible. They take someone's money and don't explain what's supposed to be done with them. The claims open in 20 to 30 becomes with the possibility of damaging people's skin."

In the past, facialists cleaned pores, applied a mask and applied moisturizer. The degree of their knowledge was finding out whether skin was oily, dry or sensitive. Today, professional skincare aims often to remove years, not just pollutants, from the face. This requires extensive knowledge in the science and art of beauty.

To provide skills for livelihood and help raise the local beauty industry standards, culinary arts Instituteswoman Sylvia Garcia has established the first professional institution for facialists, La Mirabelle School of Aesthetics and Wellness. She studied at the Atelier Esthetique in New York, a school recognized by the International Therapy Examination Council in London (ITEC). This is the one that its program provides high-quality education and international standards in esthetics.

With her school, Garcia hopes to have the Philippines accredited by the ITEC. When graduates get their certification from ITEC, they can work abroad.

Curriculum

The 500 hour course is based on the ITEC facialist's program. The curriculum includes theory of beauty aesthetics, chemistry, electricity, skin diseases, medicines, nutrition, the structure of the skin, history of beauty, and procedures such as European facial, manicure, pedicure, chemical exfoliation or the peels, makeup and waxing.

The professional development program includes job skills and entrepreneurship. The faculty is led by Joel Jumino, a registered nurse who teaches anatomy and skin disorders, along with foreign guest teachers such as Bronze, who comes from senior Esthetique.

La Mirabelle is set up like a beauty clinic, with clean beds with 3 advanced machines and technology at hand. The students are taught to read labels and not just trust branding, to determine if the ingredients are right or wrong for the customer.

Garcia said around the local brands he does assessment.

"All the time, I teach how advertising misinformed. Most of you, the advertising will be splashy, then you have to use other products or even it can it will just create a cycle. We have new brand a product that really advocate the skin."

STUDIA Garcia gives a client the relaxing facial.

The school, instead, uses premium products sourced from New York, and some natural products from Roman Nature of Gawad Kalinga.

The school maintains high standards of hygiene. From wearing gloves and white lab coats, to proper sheets, to making their own cotton pads and changing the sheets after every use. They measure the hydration level of the skin before and after the treatment.

Microcurrent facial

Garcia has opened a Home Lounge at the school that is open to the public, manned by professional aestheticians. It offers basic and European facials, hydrodermabrasion (an approved in crystal microdermabrasion) light therapy (Multi-LED light therapy uses gun treatments (Modeste's secret) and the latest "microcurrent" technology at very reasonable prices.

The microcurrent facial is the rage in the metropolitan, and is becoming more and more popular. Basically, it's like working out in the face that are usually worked out, such as the jaw line and chin, will sag. Microcurrents send painless impulses to the facial muscles to retain them and bring them back to their original firmness after accidents/stroke.

The treatment also applies ATP (adenosine triphosphate), a substance that carries the energy that makes life possible.

"When you apply any lotion on the skin, it's good if 10 percent enters. With this technology, we send 40 percent penetrates into the skin. The cells work more efficiently," says Garcia.

The technicians that it is not an "instant facelift." The immediate visible result of the skin is a byproduct of removing of dead muscles. The intentioned is to improve the skin's condition and boosts the customer's entire well-being.

International practice

With this technology, students also learn to gently remove blackheads and whiteheads without using comedone extractors. Pricking or squeezing them with instruments can harm the follicles. On the other hand, the school follows the international practice of using a special decongestant and a probe with ultrasound and microcurrent technologies to loosen up the impurities. They are then removed manually.

Hydrodermabrasion also provides a gentler alternative to microdermabrasion, popularly known by the brand name Dermomed Peel, that uses diamond-tip wands, which tends to dry up the skin. La Mirabelle uses a high-grade exfoliant and microcurrent technology to exfoliate the skin.

Garcia says La Mirabelle hopes to train and educate highly-skilled and ethical aestheticians that will be a human resource pool for affluent quality salons and spas.

La Mirabelle School of Esthetics and Wellness is now accepting enrollees. Located at 2280 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City; tel. 8393883 and 0917.8922340.

Is lauat the new, natural solution to falling hair?

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

Thanks to a doctor-entrepreneur, Pinoys now have a homegrown shampoo that might just save their locks

LAUAT

BEFORE THE trend in organic personal care products, neurosurgeon-turned-entrepreneur Rainier Villanueva had already formulated a shampoo that took on the Pinoys problem of hair fall.

Villanueva obtained his medical degree from the far Eastern University and took up residency at the APP Medical Center. While traveling in the west, he noted that growing concern for natural ingredients as an alternative to synthetic-based products that posed possible health risks.

"I'm also a pharmacist. I wanted to work with herbs that have a cosmetic application. I went into the cosmetics industry because of issues of rashes, hives and personal care products do that," he said.

Villanueva pointed out that 75 percent of the falling hair problem were due to the preservatives found in ingredients in shampoos and hair conditioners. Sulfates or cleansing agents and chemical preservatives such as parabens are harsh and potentially toxic to the body. The hair and scalp conditions are aggravated by chemical treatments and colors.

Young people getting bald

"Before you reach 60, your hair should not influence the state of your hair. Young people are getting bald because of these external factors," he said.

He observed that women in the Visayas and Mindanao would use lesser (three shampoos) bath and leaves to even-tually their hair. On the other hand, women from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao use more shampoo and conditioner to achieve the same results.

Villanueva combined lauat or indian laurel and gogo into a hair-care product called Lauat Hair Treatment Shampoo in 1998. The business started out as a backyard operation. Back then, it was easier to introduce organic products in such outlets as Mercury and SM. At the outset, he observed that Lauat was selling at the upmarket outlets of the drugstores. By word of mouth, people saw the effective-ness of the product.

"Based on a study by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), gogo prevents falling hair because it stimulates micro-circulation in the blood vessels. The more the blood flows to the scalp, the more nourishment it gets. Lauat contains essential fatty acids. It's food for the scalp, and rejuvenates the hair follicles. The synergy of these two ingredients make Lauat shampoo effective," said Villanueva.

Research also shows that the saponin, the chemical compound that gives the soapy lather in lauat, contains anti-aging, anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant elements. Saponin also protects the scalp from free radicals that block the skin cells' ability to work properly.

In 2005, Villanueva conducted a study to substantiate if the regular use of Lauat Hair Treatment Shampoo would control hair fall after frequent usage.

Conducted by Dr. Marcelle Ignacio, the study was conducted over a five-week period. At the start, the subjects' labor hair (what fell after combing using their own shampoos) was kept in ziplock bags. Every week the hair strands that fell after the shampoos were collected.

Five-week study

Every day they required to the research center to be shampooed using Lauat. Of the 176 subjects who initially joined, 98 respondents completed the five-week tests. The subjects were largely female, between the ages of 31 and 40, most in the 121-20 age group.

At the first shampoo, the average number of hair strands collected was 20.5. Some reported losing only two strands, others as much as 202. The people were then counted as how long were their falling hair. Men had more falling hair—an average of 46 strands. The female subjects, between the ages of 30 and 39, reported more hair loss.

After the first week of daily shampooing with Lauat, the average number of hair strands accumulated was 16, or a 44 percent decrease. After three weeks of daily use, there was a 73 percent drop. After 28 days, the hair strands gathered went down to 89 percent of initial hair fall.

Eventually, multinational brands came out with their own hair-fall shampoos and conditioners. "We can't compete with this but we formed a company dedicated to the research on the effectivity of plants for cosmetic use.

Some common summer ailments

IT HERE! It's an upside and a downside to summer. While summer brings fun and delight, the sun-and-fun also take its toll on you, inside and out. Here are some of your answered questions.

My big question is, why do I experience hair loss each time I go on a diet?

Everyone experiences hair loss each day—anywhere from 50-100 strands. However, whether you have low hair-growing rate or not, hair loss does not necessarily depend a lot on your genes. This is called male/female pattern baldness.

But new research has shown that there are specific nutrients determining hair regrowth, especially in women. Diet can influence to hair loss due to stress, emotion, pain and trauma. Ditto a low level of iron, the body stops producing hair.

Consider a supplementation of 30 mg of iron and 500 mg of vitamin C that I mentioned above, remember that what you eat can affect your hair health.

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Too much sun? Too much partying? There are natural solutions for these seasonal problems

A main culprit of hair loss is crash dieting. Gradual weight loss of 1 lb a week is best—not 20 pounds in 3 months. Besides, bacteria from sources are piercings (inadequate), and tissue and bowel.

Medical abet: Avoid iron overload by sticking to the daily value of 18 mg. A hair tonic called Revitalist contains hair-strengthening combinations of aloe vera, biotin, peppermint, virgin coconut oil and rosemary is an effective treatment for hair loss.

I am a sun worshipper. In spite of the sunscreen, I burn to a crisp. Any natural remedies?

If you still intend to bake yourself under the sun, try to stick to the following rules:

- Avoid the extremely hot hours where ultraviolet rays are strongest—11-3 pm.
- Wear nutritious and supply on your skin also every day in the sun.
- Despite these measures, you cannot possibly block off 100 percent of damaging ultraviolet rays. Maybe if you used an umbrella and covered yourself with a towel, this could work. Experts say you can start by limiting your time in the sun. Write down your sun exposure by use to your limits each day. The midday sun is the cruelest punishment on your skin.
- Try out supplements like vitamin E, C and selenium, which can improve the efficiency of antioxidants. These antioxidants neutralize free radicals caused by sun exposure. Constant exposure to the sun deplores your skin's supply of these vitamins and minerals.
- Avoid certain foods that make your skin more sensitive to the sun, like carrots, limes, celery and parsley, which contain psoralen chemicals that contribute to skin sun sensitivity. While you may be tempted to rub an orange on your skin so that you get a vitamin C fruit shield on your skin, this is not going to work. Vitamin C is very unstable and must be inside a special preparation. Natural sources of C, like citrus, can help with your vitamin intake, either eaten as a fruit or juice.
- Zinc oxide, a white metal worn by surfers and life guards, is a strong sun protectant. It acts as a physical blocker of ultraviolet rays. Most sun blocks already carry zinc oxide.
- If your sunburn hurts, try splashing your skin with a solution of native vinegar and water (2 tbsp vinegar, 2 tbsp water) or apply a piece of cucumber's fresh aloe vera directly on the skin. If you like, chill several slices of to-fleshy ones in the refrigerator on to your skin after your tanning session. An instant skin saver is cider oil. After your shower, apply rub it like oil. Both are moisturizing oil on your skin. It will rehydrate your skin and speed up healing.

After attending summer parties, I experienced joint pain and swelling in my knees. What could be the cause?

It is called the disease of indulgence. This means that a little uric acid may be fine, but you end up putting the price. Soon, others of arthritis, occurs when crystals of uric acid form in the fluid surrounding a joint—at your knee, wrist, or foot. The attack happens most often at night. And if you tell observe your hands, swelling occurs after a bout of drinking alcohol or over eating of red meat, which are rich in purines, protein components that are converted to uric acid. The purin-rich foods are: shellfish, liver, veal, lamb, anchovies, sardines and mackerel. However, beware of low-calorie diets. Starving yourself also increases blood levels of uric acid as your body begins breaking down tissue.

- Dietary treatment: go vegetarian for a while.
- Stay away from alcohol and red meats.
- Drink lots of water to prevent your kidneys from forming uric acid crystals.
- If you are overweight, go on a gradual weight loss program.
- When suffering a bout of gout, avoid vitamin C and vitamin which increase uric acid levels.

Allison today: "The sun shines brilliantly in my heart."

Love and light!

Reference: Prevention's Healing with Vitamins

Breast pump relieves moms' lactation problems

PHILIPS Avent manual breast pump set

TO BE URBANE HAPPY Consuming that in SM Megamall featured breast-feeding experts, such as Abigail Velarde Yabot, who spoke at the Philips breast booth.

Leader of La Leche League, Yabot talked about moms having trouble breast-feeding.

According to the American journal Pediatrics, one of the reasons why mothers stop breastfeeding is because they felt that not enough milk is coming out of their breasts, and thus their babies may starve.

Yabot said the fear owes to a misconception.

On the baby's first days, the first milk that comes out—the colostrum—amounts to only about one teaspoon per feed, she said. And this is quite enough because the baby's stomach is just about the size of a shelled nut. "So if your baby is give baby just that much milk, you can rest assured that he is getting everything he needs," she said.

Another reason why mothers stop breastfeeding is because they need to go back to work. But there is a simple solution to this: the breast pump.

"If you're going back to work," Yabot said, "you should get a pump that expresses milk from both breasts at the same time." Such a pump will let you finish pumping within a 20-minute break, while a singular pump will require twice as much time, she added.

You can safely reuse the pump later without washing (yes, the lactation expert told us that) because breast milk has antibacterial properties, Yabot explained. Just shake the milk off the pump parts after using, put the parts in an air-tight container, then keep it in the office refrigerator.

Philips AVENT supports breastfeeding by producers baby bottles with nipples that are small, shaped, and textured like a mom's breast, to help prevent nipple confusion, and breast pumps.

AVENT offers pumps that are specifically designed to eliminate the pain that some mothers report when they are using their breast pumps.

AVENT pumps are scientifically designed and tested for ease and comfort of use. Today, Philips AVENT is the leading international brand for breast pumps and baby feeding products.

To learn more about breastfeeding and Philips AVENT, check Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/PhilipsAventPH) or e-mail avent@ph.com.ph.

PHILIPS Avent Twin electric breast pump BPA free

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Run and party at the Moonlit Run at Sofitel

GET SET for the most exciting night run in Manila as Sofitel brings you the "Moonlit Run at Sofitel: Party at the Finish Line" on May 7, 6 p.m. Join the 5K, 5K and 10K runs, and get the chance to win exciting gifts and prizes.

End the night with a fabulous party at the finish line at Sofitel's Harbour Garden Tent, and enjoy festive entertainment, pre dancers, live bands, and live performances by Reggae Rhinestone.

Tickets are on sale at P2,000 each, inclusive of race registration, running kit, a sumptuous refreshment dinner buffet, free-flowing beer, and cocktails, plus live entertainment. It's for the ultimate party at the finish line.

Run registration starts at 1 p.m. at the Harbour Garden Tent. Present your Moonlit Run ticket and get 30 percent off on Sofitel's acclaimed lunch buffet, and enjoy house-poured beverages at the new Inner Lane Lounge at Sofitel or a special buy one, take one offer, valid until May 31.

Proceeds of the Moonlit Run at Sofitel are for the benefit of the Orthotic Foundation.

Join in the fun and help bring back the smiles to the street children of Manila.

Call 8526064 or 5115555 for ticket purchases and inquiries, and join the Moonlit Run at Sofitel fan page on Facebook for updates.

24-hour party celebrates sports, music and fashion

At L24, Adidas' 24-hour event, will be on May 14-15, 10 p.m.-10 p.m. in Eastwood City, Quezon City. This will be a multiarenas with other cities in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore.

The campaign celebrates passion for the love of the game, and the fusion of sports, music and fashion. DJs will be spinning their unique brand of hip-hop, house and electro beats. Round the clock, athlete, skateboarders, graffiti artists, dance crews and celebrities will show support on Adidas.

There will be free-throw and three-point shootouts, three-on-three competition, five-a-side football and relay races.

Competitions are open to 14- to 25-year-old participants. A screening process will be conducted, and a minimal joining fee of P300 is required per participant. Competition winners will take home Adidas products and cash as prizes. Participants and even supporters at the actual event automatically have a chance to win Adidas products, limited-edition L24 merchandise, and other amazing freebies.

Get two tickets for every purchase of Adidas products worth P2,400. A special 20-percent discount on any purchase will be given on May 13-15. Visit Adidas, Adidas Biker, Olympic World, Planet Sports, Froilan, Rustic, SportsHouse, Sports Central, The Athlete's Foot, Tuffy's and Urban Athletics.

Visit www.adidas824.com and www.facebook.com/adidas824philippines.

Flamenco workshop

Tablao Flamenco offers flamenco workshop ongoing until May 31. Classes will cover the following techniques, movements and combinations corresponding to each level: Ritmos (rhythms), Vestidos (Skirts), Taconeos/Zapateados (footwork), Brazeos (arm-work), Palmas (rhythmic clapping) and Castanets. For solo are choos , castanets, skirts , tops, manteons/ton, fans, Sala de clases. Tablao Flamenco is at 5242-F Burgos St. corner Guerrero St., Barangay Poblacion, Makati. Call 894 246, 0915-4345259. E-mail info@tablaoflamenco.com, visit www.tablaoflamenco.com.

Pacquiao fight in Richmonde

Eastwood Richmonde Hotel screens the Manny Pacquiao vs. Shane Mosley fight as it happens live without commercial breaks at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 8 a.m. in Bertolli's Grand Ballroom. Tickets at P1,000 maybe purchased from hotel lobby. It includes buffet breakfast from 7-10 a.m., and a round of iced tea, coffee or hot tea. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Eastwood Richmonde Hotel is in Libis, Quezon City. Call 9207717.

Discovery Shores celebrates Mother's Day

Discovery Shores, formerly known as Discovery Primea the "Celebrate Mom" buffet dinner in its Zaida Restaurant. There's also a special set dinner at Indigo Restaurant at P2,988 per person including Harvest Greens and Spicy Spinel Naboods with Washington Pears and Blue Cheese, Sweet Snow Cream Soup, Smoked Salmon and Chives, choice between Oregon and Saffron Glazed Chilean Sea Bass with Creamy Corn, Sautéed Spinach or Super Crispy "Bouge" Duck Confit with Lemon-made Pommeroy Mustard Potatoes. White Wine Sangria, and dessert of Mango and Passion Fruit Hazelnut with Tropical Fruit Chutney.

Chef David Pardo de Ayala prepares the buffet at Sarela, which is P1,350 for adults and P625 for children below 12 years old. There will be cigarette manger, "live" sushi bar and hamburger station, variety of soups and homemade breads, hot station, carving and grill station, sweet table and fresh fruits station.

Terra Wellness Spa will be giving away P100 gift vouchers and half-off-the-spa gift certificates.

Kids can create a special token for mom in the Kidzo artz on May 7-8.

Discovery Shores' Summer Day Package at P20,888 per person is inclusive of a three-day, two-night stay in the Junior Suite, round-trip airport via SUAC daily breakfast at Sarela Restaurant and boat land transfers from Caticlan airport.

Call (1)88888 and 6882 to 6886, visit www.discoveryprimeshores.com.

Discovery Shores Boracay is managed by Hotel Properties Hospitality Management. It was recently voted by Travel + Leisure readers as one of the T+L 500's top-ranked hotels in the world and was listed among Asia's Top Resorts and Top Family Resorts.

Mother's Day buffet in Hyatt

Moms who dine in Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila on May 8 will receive a special token.

At Market Cafe, sous chef Jesse Factor features specialties like Singaporean chili crab, salt and pepper pork spare ribs, salmon in lemon butter cream, roasted beef tenderloin and pad Thai noodles. The dessert station will have freshly baked pastries, chocolates, cakes and home-made ice cream. The buffet is at P1,888 per person, inclusive of free-flowing soft drinks and local beer.

At Li Li, chef de cuisine Andy Chan presents an eight-course set menu of Cantonese cuisine, with traditional Chinese desserts. Price is P1,388 net per person.

The Sunday "Yum Cha" at P1,888 per person, is for Moms who enjoy dim sums to-order. Dessert choices are almond cream with glutinous dumpling and chilled mango cream. For drinks, there's bottomless iced tea, soft drinks and local beer.

Pastry chef Johann Deringer designed a limited-edition Chocolate Snow Cake for moms, available in round and bar shapes on. Available at the Pastry Boutique until May 11, at P988 and P288 for the petite. Call 310 1234.

Treats for moms in Robinsons

Robinsons Malls celebrates Mother's Day with a series of activities with theme "Malls Only for Moms." Get a hand spa, facial massage, eyebrow grooming and foot massage on May 7 with a single-receipt purchase of P1,500 in any Robinsons Malls.

Join the "We and My Beautiful Mom Online Photo Contest." E-mail a photo of you and your mom with a short caption of 50 words max describing why your mom is beautiful inside and out at robinsonsmalls@yahoo.com, subject: "Me and My Beautiful Mom at Robinsons (name of mall)," beside your name, age and address in your e-mail. The photos with the most likes for each mall's Facebook Fan Page will get gift certificates. Winners will be announced on May 7.

Call 397 1888 locals 780-782 visit www.facebook.com/RobinsonsMalls or www.robinsonsmalls.com.

PRODUCTS FOR HEALTHY SKIN

Kojie San Fungentex soap, toners and lotions are effective and affordable for the Filipino skin. Recently launched by makers Beauty Elements Venture Inc. (BeeV), Fungentex items are rich in vitamins B, C and E, and collagen, said sales director Jun Perez. Variants include papaya, cucumber, avocado, calamansi and lemon (slightly bleached). An unscented beauty aid on, bengkung-roots edition and protect from the sun. It contains vitamin C, flavonoids and saponins, which prevent skin damage and melanin formation. Available in Watson's, Mercury Drug, SM Supermarket. Call 8996708, e-mail kojiman_info@yahoo.com or visit www.kojiman.com.

Cirque du Soleil performs

LIFESTYLE Wellness

Good karma ends fear, says yoga teacher

By Gemma G. Velarde

THE DANCE of destruction has begun, she warns, "not to create panic" but to urge people around the world to really see what has brought it about and what can be done.

She presents the scenario: "Widespread climate change, economic downturn, civil uprisings in countries run by corrupt autocracies and international intervention employing sophisticated missiles. It is a global emergency."

Not one of these conditions can be isolated in terms of accountability. "Even natural calamities are brought about by human karma against nature. We are all affected, and we are all responsible," says Denise Lawrence, Friend-Canadian academic advisor of the India-based Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, who is in the country for a series of free public lectures.

Following quick stops in Davao City and Baguio, Lawrence is the featured speaker in "Good Karma Ends Fear" at the Dominga Theater, Greenhills 1, Makati City, on Thursday, May 5, 7 to 9 p.m. On May 11, Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., she gives another talk, "Choose Change and Become It," at the Center for Spiritual Learning in Tagaytay City.

"Scientists have sounded the alarm: nature will eventually react to all the misuse she has sustained from wanton human disrespect," Lawrence, a former short news filmmaker at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, notes. "Now we are the beginning of what is described in Indian mythology as Tandav, the dance of destruction."

Become more responsible

What should be done? "The most urgent need is for human beings to transform attitudes of arrogance and entitlement, and become more responsible in relationships with one another and with Nature," Lawrence says. "Start consciously generating only good karma, and truly get to know God...study His teachings and set aside all the crude assumptions that have created the catastrophes that the world faces today."

The smallest steps count to start all this, says Lawrence, who has written 16 volumes on values and spirituality that are used as textbooks in several Asian and Indian universities, including Annamalai in Tamil Nadu, South India.

After a long-time teacher of Raja Yoga meditation, she adds: "In a state of clarity, our consciousness can act as a barometer to instantly determine where we are wrong or right. Meditation increases our sensitivity and skillfulness in reading this barometer. How do we know where we are acting properly? A feels right. Both a sensibility can be developed. And there's no better time to do it than now."

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TULDOS — BY MARK COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This time Mars moves energy to the back burner to think about how you're handling your savings, and how you're earning from your possessions. What's the verdict?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) While the New Moon is still in your sign, it's the perfect time to initiate educational or important new shared relationships, as well as your appearance and the impression you create on others.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It will benefit you now to get some thoughts in your cognitive life. Whether the new personal plan that pops up is very big?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A new change with the friend versus you issue? It's your opportunity to learn more friends. Be sure that is simple. Be friendly!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) This is the luck New Moon that urges you to think about your life direction suggested. Are you making what you really want to do?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Most further education, an adventure or travel can only get that will help you more? Do you have to learn something new?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Are your habits still true things are being added regarding shared projects, debts, taxes and joints held property? Are you happy with your choices?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This New Moon invites opportunities in your sign. It is only New Moon that will be opposite the Sun all year. It's your best opportunity to improve your closest relationships.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) What can you do to improve your job or your attitude toward your job, or perhaps even to get a better job? This is the best day of the month for this focus.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Today's New Moon urges you to think of the balance between give and take in your life. What do you think of your balance? Do you work too much or play too much? Take a look!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) What can you do to improve your home and how you appreciate your family? Symbolic, what can you do to improve your relationships with family members? This is the day to think about that things.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Communication with others is paramount. How is your communication? Do people understand what you mean, and vice versa?

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

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				1	5			3
	2	4			7	1	6	
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Difficulty Level ★★

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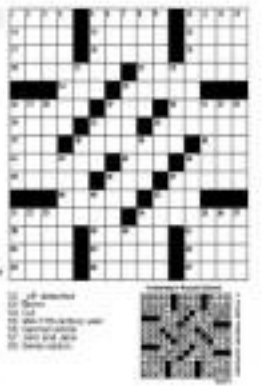

At last, an anti-dandruff and beauty shampoo in one bottle

By Cheche V. Plaza

FOR THE ESTIMATED 80 percent of the global population who suffer from dandruff, anti-dandruff shampoos are considered a form of medication. Once the flakes disappear, people switch back to regular shampoo...yes beauty, the label that makes the hair soft, bouncy and beautiful. But, once the flakes resurface, it's back to the anti-dandruff bottle.

Filipinos are said to have the highest hair-washing frequency in the world. But big shampoo companies that we are, a poll has disclosed that 77 percent still complained of scalp problems.

New formulation

Seeking an end to this vicious cycle, Unilever, the makers of Clear shampoo, believes it has created a new formulation that addresses both scalp problems and specific hair conditions, essentially, an anti-dandruff and beauty shampoo in just one bottle.

At the presentation held at the Unilever R&D facility in Shanghai two weeks ago, Clear executives made their case by opening its laboratories to the media for the first time, to demonstrate the rigorous process it has conducted in the last few years to improve on the Clear formula.

The new Clear, which rolled out in the Philippines on Easter Sunday, now contains the so-called Pro-Nutrium 10 for men and Nutrium 10 for women, the new pro-vitamins-and-minerals formulations that are product-specific-designed, to address the unique hair and scalp conditions of men and women.

Men's scalps typically produce more sebum, ergo are more prone to dandruff, while women's scalps are more prone to chemical, cosmetic and hormonal conditions and hairstyles that are product-specific-designed, to address the unique hair and scalp conditions of men and women.

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In the last few years in response to the global consumer trend, Unilever has developed a new formulation that addresses both scalp problems and specific hair conditions, essentially, an anti-dandruff and beauty shampoo in just one bottle.

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In the Philippines, make-up-ads-TV personality Cheche Lazaro is the brand's newest endorser.

In the current global market offerings, however, Strand said 20 percent of the shampoos marketed as anti-dandruff address only dandruff, not all scalp problems. Meaning, they've only good for temporarily removing surface flakes. It's Clear's contention that, in order to solve scalp problems, one's shampoo must not only wash off the visible flakes, but treat the root cause, which is the damaged scalp barrier.

Clear claims the Nutrium 10 formulation delivers nutrients up to three layers deep into the scalp to repair and strengthen its natural resistance against dandruff.

The new Clear is endorsed by the International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology.

Aggravating conditions

Dandruff is caused by a naturally occurring fungus on the scalp called malassezia. While everyone has malassezia, not everyone suffers from dandruff. Dandruff occurs when one's scalp is too dry or too oily. The first signs of dandruff may occur at the onset of puberty when a person undergoes hormonal changes. The condition is aggravated when a person is stressed. The change in weather can also affect one's scalp condition.

"In general terms, dandruff is more in winter than in the summer," said Dr. Graham Turner, category project leader of Unilever.

"In fact, in Unilever we tried to do our tests in the winter season. You get dandruff in the summer but it tends to have more moisture. But in [Southland] and the Philippines, [you might say] what winter are you talking about? The change in season also matters, not the severity of cold. In Thailand, for example, when it gets cool, the relative humidity goes to the dry season, that's when you see a change in the scalp condition. In North America and the UK, it's when you go from relatively warmer weather to colder weather."

Even moisturizer, many skin oils, may can have greater impact on the scalp's condition, Turner added. "How much water do they leave across to? The frequency of wash, the humidity, dirt, lights, pollutants. There are many ingredients in certain ways."

Cultural habits

Why hair and scalp are subjected to extreme conditions of dryness that can create dandruff conditions. But that's not as much about ethnicity as much as down to one's habits," Amit Jayaraol, global R&D director, pointed out.

In contrast to Filipinos' hair-washing habits, the African population tends their hair only once in every four weeks, according to Victor Hugo Jr., global brand manager and project leader of Clear "[natural] oil shampoo, their new products."

"Any shampoo that is designed to clean the scalp," Turner said, "and moisturizing hygiene's role in preventing dandruff. "Regular hygiene keeps dandruff at the lowest level possible. Cleanliness will help the condition. You wash off the sebum that feeds the malassezia."

Clear, he added, has active ingredients...zinc pyrithione and climbazole—to reduce malassezia regrowth and nourish the scalp.

Best product

But why the need to go against the shampoo rule?

"We just want to go all the ways to deliver the best product, not so much because of competition," Strand stressed. "In the last two years, Clear has been appealing to both beauty and anti-dandruff consumers." Its recent endorsers include singer Nicole Scherzinger, football star Cristiano Ronaldo, tennis star Maria Sharapova, K-pop superstar Rain, and local show biz's Paolo Ballesteros, Bea Alonzo, Jericho Rosales and Gerald Anderson.)

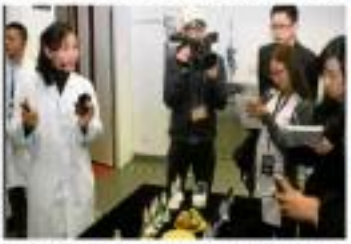
He added, "The anti-dandruff and scalp segment has grown significantly—it's growing the fastest in the shampoo market. It's all about market development; consumers are switching. We believe that one day half of the consumer market will be scalp issues; if 60 percent of population has [scalp] problems. From 30 percent today to 50 percent in the future."

Blind testing

The company believes it makes a strong case for the brand's market. In blind hair-wash tests conducted in Shanghai, Ningbo and the new Clear has consistent choice.

"We have also shown that Clear delivers more silicone to the damaged areas of the hair. We have a real crack [at the market] because we have clinical advantage. The technology to where we deliver."

Clear, which is sold only in 40 markets, claims to sell 100 bottles every second in its 40 markets worldwide, bats for an all-in-one solution



"THERE are 15 ingredients in the new Clear, but only one right formulation out of 5 million possible sequences and combinations.

LAB scientists show that hair shampooed with Clear results in less hair loss.

THE NEW Clear for men and women also sport a new, streamlined and more user-friendly packaging.

DOMENICO Cavarretta explains the nature of malassezia, the naturally occurring fungus on the scalp that causes dandruff.

"THE NEW Clear helps keep dandruff at the lowest level possible," says Dr. Graham Turner, category project leader of Unilever. "Cleanliness will help the condition. You wash off the sebum that feeds the malassezia."

APRT Jayaraol, global R&D director; Francois Renard, Clear global vice president; Victor Hugo Jr., Clear global brand manager

Skin treatments for summer

BLUEWATER DAY Spa introduces treatments to relieve the skin during summer.

The Illuminati Peel is a "micro-dermabrasion" treatment that exfoliates the top layer of the skin, using genuine diamond tip to gently slough off dead skin cells living area of the set equipment, the process uncovers fresh and young looking skin that gives a positively youthful glow.

Fluorescent Pulsed Light focuses extensive unwanted body hair. The process uses the Photomaker IPL (Fluorescent Pulsed Light System) to remove hair permanently from underneath.

Fluorescent can also be used to create positively shaped eyebrows permanently.

Revita Firm is the new non-invasive approach that lifts and tightens skin. It works by boosting and increasing the temporary use of the dermis to contract the dermal collagen.

AVOID, at most of our machine treatments and peel special discount card.

Revita Shape is a slimming treatment utilizing electromagnetic energy with light speed to heat the dermis and subcutaneous tissues in a controlled manner.

Deep Cleansing Facial Treatment uses a blend of aroma essentials, that leaves beauty noticeably clean and the technical expertise of the spa's facial therapists.

Deep Cleansing Mask diminish skin impurities. It is repeated, hydrosmized for teenagers with acne problems. It cleanses, removes sebum and retains deep-seated oil and dirt. The special mud mask tightens pores and increases sebum production.

Thermic C and Honey Mask nourish and invigorate dry and tired skin.

The Power Mask Mask minimizes the formation of collagen and elastin, and hydrates and activates the skin's protective system.

Deep Cleansing Facial with Effective Eye Zone Treatment restores the suppleness of the skin. It reduces the puffiness and dark circles around the eyes and fine lines around the lips.

Deep Cleansing Facial with Collagen Mask stimulates the growth of healthy new cells, reduces hyper-pigmentation and imperfect and deeply moisturizes.

BlueWater Day Spa has a comprehensive treatment program through its Illuminati Card.

Simply enroll your facial treatment at any BlueWater machine treatment and get the special card.

New feminine moisturizer

FEMININE moisturizer Replens & Replenish, distributed by New Marketlink Pharmaceutical Corporation, promises to provide a fresh feeling within by balancing one's pH level and eliminating vaginal odor.

An imbalance of vaginal pH is caused by activities and practices that most women do like douching, taking antibiotics, smoking cigarettes and even using certain feminine hygiene products.

If this pH imbalance is not corrected, it would lead to bacterial vaginosis, a more severe vaginal infection. Being hygiene habits to the line douche does not guarantee total protection from bacterial vaginosis.

One of the downsides of losing menopause is due to reduced amount of estrogen in a woman's body which brings about symptoms like hot flashes and mood changes, weakened pelvis and osteoporosis. This may cause vaginal atrophy, a painful condition characterized by vaginal dryness and soreness, burning sensation after sexual activity, and painful discharge.

Some women resolve this by using lubricants, while others resort to ignore the pain and symptoms. To lessen the discomfort, they will need a moisturizer that not only provides quick relief, but also restores moisture for a longer period.

Replenis is a non-hormonal and estrogen-free vaginal moisturizer. This patented solution soothes dry skin cells for immediate relief, allowing the vaginal lining to regain its natural elasticity. It helps keep skin cells supernourished and eliminates dead skin cells for up to three days.

Though the recommended use is once every three days, Replens is safe for regular use, depending on the body's needs.

Replenish & Replens are now available in major drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

For good hair—eat right

SO, you've found the right scalp and hair care shampoo. A more holistic approach to caring for your scalp, however, requires some tweaking in your diet.

Dr. Ito Garcia, Clear nutritionist, lists a few dietary and lifestyle suggestions:

- Avoid foods that are too salty, spicy or sweet.
- Heavy alcohol intake can aggravate dandruff conditions.
- Eat foods rich in omega 3 fatty nutrient, walnut, prunes, almonds, flaxseed. They reduce inflammation and relieve dry and itchy scalp.
- Drink clear fluids (filtered and processed) foods containing fruits and saturated fats.
- Increase intake of healthy fats like olive oil, soybean, sunflower seed, fish oils.
- Eat lots of fruits rich in antioxidants like blueberries, strawberries, mango, papaya, pomegranate.
- Eat fiber-rich veggies like broccoli, spinach, cabbage and cauliflower.
- Include Vitamin B-rich foods in your diet such as nuts, peas, beans and whole grains.
- To avoid hair loss, reduce stress and sleep at least eight hours a day. Increase your intake of good quality protein from meat, fish and eggs.
- Use a comprehensive olive oil a day in your diet will help strengthen hair.
- Shiny black hair calls for a diet rich in broths and legumes.
- Spices like turmeric and cumin can help detoxify your body.
- Damaged hair calls for silica-rich foods like green and red peppers, cucumbers and bean sprouts.

From faith healer to spiritual guru

Alex Orbito has become a healer not only of the body, but also of the mind and the spirit

DURING THE Holy Week, I went to the Pyramid of Asia in Mataasnakahoy, Philippinestar, together with my wife, Tely, upon the invitation of internationally known Filipino spiritual healer and psychic surgeon, Alex Orbito, who asked me to give a talk about the Mayan Calendar prophecies and the forthcoming earth changes before his large group of foreign patients, supporters and disciples.

I was completely amazed at what I saw and experienced there. Orbito had more than 65 foreign guests from 35 different countries, mostly from Europe. Many of them were healers themselves—physiotherapists, psychologists, yoga teachers, reflexologists, homeopaths.

In my brief stay I met an American sculptor, a Romanian artist, an American dance instructor living in Austria, a Russian doctor of medicine, a French healer who gave me an Ankh cross from Egypt, a Canadian teacher of Mongolian chants, a Swedish businessman, and even an Indian student of mine, among others.

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

A week of sharing

They were all gathered there for more than a week of learning, sharing of knowledge, experiencing psychic surgery, performing a healing mission in three different depressed communities, and even sleeping inside a dark but powerful cave in Mabini, Pangasinan.

Called the Hearts and Healing Tour, the big internal ideal affair, according to Inquirer journalist, Melvin Alvior, was a brainchild of Dutch seamstress Marika Verheijen, an ardent supporter and tireless organizer of Alex Orbito's healing missions in Europe.

This group of foreign healers, patients and visitors had the rare chance of witnessing up and experiencing real living conditions of the average Filipinos, away from the glitter and noise of the Metropolis.

I have known Alex Orbito as a healer for more than 20 years now, and have even written a book about him entitled "Born to Heal," which has been translated into many foreign languages. I have also personally witnessed his remarkable healing work in Switzerland, Germany and the United States.

He is today one of the most highly respected and internationally admired healers of the Philippines, although he is now based mainly in Europe. Shirley McClaine verses about him in her third book, "Going Within."

Although I had known Alex for more than two decades, I was completely unprepared for what I saw in the Pyramid of Asia last Holy week. Alex Orbito has metamorphosed from a healer of physical ailments to a real spiritual guru or teacher.

His lectures and seminars have attracted a wide spectrum of followers from all over the world. He has become a healer not only of the body, but also of the mind and the spirit. He very persuasive inspires people, just like spiritual gurus do. And this observation comes from people I talked with last week. And they were not ordinary people either. They were professionals, businessmen, scientists and even medical doctors.

Technique for healing

During one of his lectures last week, Alex taught his large group of foreign participants a simple but effective technique for healing themselves using visualization of the human body, such as the heart, lungs, pancreas, left kidney, right kidney, ovary (or prostate), ears, osteoblastin (or pineal gland), the third eye (or pituitary gland), the eyes, and the thyroid gland.

Alex announced that his next big project is to build a Pyramid of Light in Mabini, Pangasinan, near where his powerful vortex is located. He said he saw this Pyramid of Light repeatedly in his dreams, which was shown to him by a lady in white.

After successfully building the only healing pyramid in Asia in Mataasnakahoy, he is now embarking on a bigger and more ambitious project of building a pyramid that will bring enlightenment to the world. He is being assisted in this formidable task by an international team of architects, engineers, scientists and businessmen who all believe in him and his project. The inauguration of this pyramid will be on November 11, 2011, coinciding with the opening of the Stargate to 400 of the cosmic universe.

The next three ESP development seminar will be held on May 14,15 from 9 a.m.–5 p.m., while The Advance ESP and Higher Consciousness seminar will be on May 21,22 from 6–9 p.m. For more info, please call tel. nos. 810.7243 and 415.9898 or cell no. 09205 891-0982. E-mail jaimelicauco@yahoo.com. Visit our website at www.jaimelicauco.com.

Positive results for breast cancer drug

ROCHE ANNOUNCED this week the results of its first randomized trial of trastuzumab emtansine (T-DM1) in positive metastatic breast cancer. Results of the Phase II trial, known as TDM4450g, showed that patients treated in this study lived significantly longer with their disease under control, and experienced fewer side effects typical of chemotherapy.

"These encouraging data support our ongoing development program for T-DM1 in first line HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer," said Hal Barron, MD, chief medical officer and head of global development. "T-DM1 is a novel treatment, with the potential to improve outcomes for patients with breast cancer, due to its efficacy and favorable safety profile."

Data from the study will be submitted for presentation at a future medical congress.

Most common

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women worldwide. Each year about 1.4 million new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed worldwide, and over 450,000 people will die of the disease annually.

The study is a randomized, multicenter, international, two-arm, open-label clinical trial on 137 patients with positive metastatic breast cancer.

Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with transformational strategies in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics. Roche is the world's largest biotech company with differentiated medicines in oncology, virology, inflammation, metabolism, and CNS. In 2010, Roche had over 80,000 employees worldwide and invested over 9 billion Swiss francs in R&D.

For more information: www.roche.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Emerson G. Tolentino

Tyler joined 'Idol' to prove point to bandmates

LOS ANGELES—Aerosmith rocker Steven Tyler says he signed on as a judge of "American Idol" to help his estranged bandmates. "[Idol] take this job to show the band? F—, yeah," the 63-year-old singer said in the cover story of Rolling Stone magazine. "Not to show them, but that I can't let hold hostage anymore. I will be my own hostage. The band can't throw me out."

Reuters

Internet radio: All for the love of music

By Pocholo Concepcion

RACE in the 1990s, the hottest thing was alternative music, which eventually referred to anything that didn't sound squarely clean and boring pop. Now that local FM radio has become too generic, it seems the time has come for an alternative to radio itself.

It's found on the Internet but it's not just about foreign pop-programming music on their websites. The good news is, a number of Pilipinos have set up their own online portals to offer what conventional radio stations have pushed or ignored altogether.

They are accessible via desktops, laptops and, for the most pioneering, touch-screen mobile phones with Wi-Fi.

Relevance-wise of the music that the Internet has enabled—mainly through French on Facebook, Google Chrome for their cross-web links:

■ The Music Junkies—a brainchild of women radiophiles Jessique "Bossie" Marcelo, who's in many of these stations, namely: Dig Radio, Jazztones and The Classic Music Authority (TCMA).

Dig Radio is manned by Frenzie Brew (yes, him, the former Dawn guitarist), along with some of the other DJs displaced by MJE 107's programming overhaul. What you love about MJ, you'll hear it here.

Jazztones features music that

THE JESUS' son on guitarist Mary Ashburn, playing with Jakkoti drummer Rowe Villarealthis year at Saulti

made the old WRRM and City Lites Jazzcon Era many years before, records jazz and music streams. Handling the play list are former record label executive and Jazzlion DJ Jeffrey Estrada, erstwhile City Lite station manager and currently UP Manoreon professor Philip Asercion, and the rest of the Jazzlion accessories of the Jazzlion page on Facebook.

TCMA plays classic Top 40 hits of the 1970s and '80s.

■ DJ Cool Carlo's Chill-Out Session—podcasts. Featuring former QC 102 DJ Cool Carlo Lyna, he's a.k.a. Carlo Reyes of the bands Identity Crisis and Monkey's Paranoia).

The Chill-Out Sessions showcase lounge music or sounds

that put the listener in a relaxed mood without necessarily dozing off. One can also dance to it, or, as one of the program's titles suggests, "make out" to it.

BUSINESS 11

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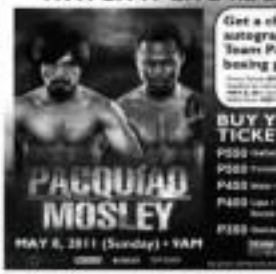

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ILOCOS NORTE

Internet...

"Until."

• Manilaworld.com...an offshoot of the Facebook page Manila Intel All-Nighter, a community of real music fanatics.

Its music player exists newly installed and its programs are still limited, although they go on live as in real time, with former Juan Pablo Dreams front man Bimp Asencio as the DJ.

• IJS Farewells...probably the most exciting thing to happen on Internet radio since it's right there on Facebook. In between the eclectic programming of IU UR FIRE, which will go off the air very soon.

The last time we turned in, Farewells was suffering from transmission skips which are unpleasant to the ears. Its webmistress guys should do the necessary tweaks before it formally launches on May 05.

The band linking all these music sites is plain, undiluted love of music. The people assisting it are not getting paid—at least not yet while prospects for sponsors wait and see how everything morphs.

No longer happy

"Hindi na kami nagaaway sa isa't isa (We're no longer happy with each other)," guitarist Tacky Salcedo told the reporters by phone on Friday, explaining why he quit the band. Jai's been playing with for more than 20 years, The Jerks.

Described by Senator Imperial Magsaysay's title Cassandra as "the country's best hot band," The Jerks survived the 1980s and '90s even with the departure of lauded Boy Manzano, harmonica player Gil Dating and guitarist Jun Lopito, the dead of drummer Vice Mendoza—leaving Adriano and beat man Chinkoy Pura plus a long line of succeeding new members to carry on its potent mix of classic rock and politically charged originals.

Adriano insulted Pura asking why it seemed he was losing interest in the band.

BASIL Valdez and Dawn Pulido

Adriano revealed he has felt he was treated like a session player, and not as an original member, all these years.

As for his plans, he said he might join Pepe Smith who is forming his own blues band.

Hardest lesson

"When you run into a wall and find things becoming difficult, never quit, keep working, because all business is difficult anyway," said Joel Madden of the band Good Charlotte, when asked by the Escalera on the hardest lesson he has learned in the music biz.

Good Charlotte was here recently for a concert at the Glorietta in Ayala Malls.

Classic hits

Basil Valdez proved he still has the chops in a recent back-to-back concert with Dawn Pulido at Resorts World's Newport Performing Arts Theater. The 59-year-old OPM icon, who survived a throat operation and changing musical trends, didn't have to struggle while going through a long repertoire of his classic hits (written by Jesse Cayabyab and George Canseco), to '70s pop covers from his Circus Band days, to a list of jazz ("The Lovers Where You Live"), to a duet with his estranged daughter Maddlene Gallardo, to a physically challenging musical theater number ("Contest of the Sky"), to a couple of movie themes, and finally to a solemn but difficult finale, "The Prayer."

"Medyo nirerespi ako dun a (That was a bit exhausting)," Basil told Dawn after belting "Contest of the Sky."

"Gumyot talaga ang vocous pero more," joked Dawn, who—true herself—a fine example of seducing talent—her best moments revealed while paying tribute to her influences, Barbra Streisand and Diana Ross, not to mention the Donna Summer disco sound and, of course, a few originals including her signature "Dinuro" (another Canseco composition).

Just three notes a few instances when her vocals sounded a bit too sharp for comfort. Was is due to the studio mix, or just a natural tendency of her singing style?

Is Ate Guy coming home on her birthday?

I HOPED you, Ate Kuya and the Legaspi clique are coming back to Manila. We happened to be on the same flight.

I was tempted to ask him about his separation from his wife Chinkee, but it was too early in the morning for confidences. In fact, he didn't talk me about my (un)favorite topic of the entire flight, leaving him to my friend Papa Fernandez.

We were traveling alone, unlike most politicos who bring along an entourage. When I asked him to pose for a picture, he said, "Sure pero parangga ako. Bagong gising look pa ako."

He seemed to have a lost a lot of weight, which makes him look all the more like rock singer Bamboo.

It was raining hard when we were boarding the plane, so I watched Chris walk to the taxi stand as unfamiliar. I wondered if the swollen river making him miss his flight. They have weathered many storms together. See this time around, looks like Chris has to find shelter from the rain elsewhere.

Real winners

I rejected being one of the judges at the

Mutya ng Maguindanao 2011 in Legazpi City. Albay Magpuyo seems beautiful in Bicolano.

I was impressed with the iconic charm and wit of the 20 finalists who hailed from different parts of Chili Island.

It was also great to bond with my co-judges Jane Bello, beauty Carol Salda, Northern Luzon Vice Governor Rhea Uy, Joel Mendez, Val Servo, John Montes, Book Ed Bolmon and Rhianne Quimbo.

The pageant was hosted by frenemies Gabbi Garcia, Coney Narciso and Robert John Santos. Guest performer was Gail Lovenston.

Next is the new breeding ground of beauty queens, Precious Lara Quigaman, Venus Raj, Glenn Sievis and the late Melody Gersbach all have birthdays today.

Belatan Joy Arnaldo's Emily Awesugen was proclaimed the winner. The Hernandez Hamada and Dimaculangan look-alike took home P150,000 and other big prizes.

Quite in a real swagger. The ruler of Ozzy didn't stop singing during the pageant, but she still graced the event to honor his contestants.

Michelle Reed for welcoming me with open arms. It was so re-

freshing to see Hoba on runway!

Homecoming

Speaking of Reed, Wow mister reminisced some of the most popular "romances" of the previous. There's talk that she's finally coming home on her birthday May 21. Her homecoming has been postponed several times.

Crazy rumor about her alleged gambling and financial woes subsided in the drama. Any one could say: well be the happiest who cried, "Inclusa." But how loyal fans are not losing hope. She ought to come home soon and fix all to clear speculations about his. O walang formula ng mga ito?

PERSONAL: If you happen to visit Legazpi City, check out the yummy lechon pizza and Bicol express pasta at Bandi Tilik Cafe. Also a must-sip is the oil ice cream at 1st Colonnade Grill. Mmmm!

E-mail: wowmr@philstar.net

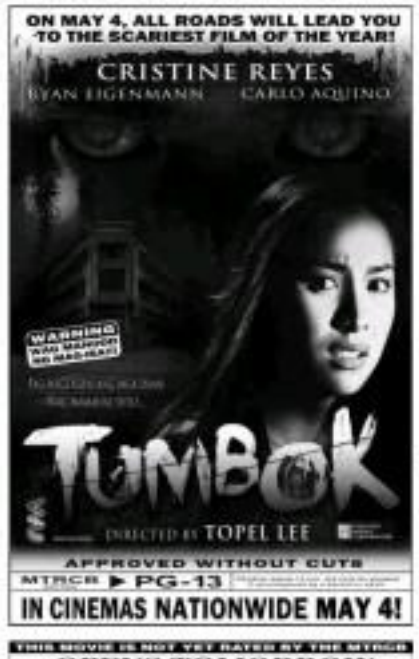
Justin Bieber up at No. 2

THE TOP-SELLING albums in the country for the week April 16-24, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales reports:

Overall

1) Bamboo Mars, "Sino Mapa Kundgano," Warner Music; 2) Justin Bieber, "My Worlds: The Collection," MCA Music; 3) Angeline Quinto, "Angeline Quinto," Star Records; 4) Jose Baldemoro, "Soulfully," Star Records; 5) Various Artists, "Best of Praise & Worship Music," Ivory Music; 6) Willie Revillame, "I Love You," Viva Records; 7) Various Artists, "Full Blast! Maximum Dance Hits," Ivory Music; 8) Various Artists, "My Popular Demand 3," Universal Records; 9) The Script, "Science & Faith," Sony Music; 10) Rihanna feat. Eminem Penayre: Loved Power & Friends," Warner Music.

OPM

1) Angeline Quinto, "Angeline Quinto";

2) Jose Baldemoro, "Soulfully," Star Records; 3) Willie Revillame, "I Love You," Viva Records; 4) Various Artists, "My Popular Demand 3," Universal Records; 5) Jose Baldemoro, "I'll Be Anything For Love," Star Records; 6) Kyla Aquino, "My World's Journey," Universal Records; 7) Princess Antonia Princess, "Your Music"; 8) Noel Cabangon, "Brides," Universal Records; 9) Various Artists, "Star Hits Best of TV & Movie Themes," Star Records; 10) Willie Revillame, "Walking Willie," Viva Records.